

story and art by
FUMIYO KOUNO

2

In this
Corner
of the **World**

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Translation by Adrienne Beck

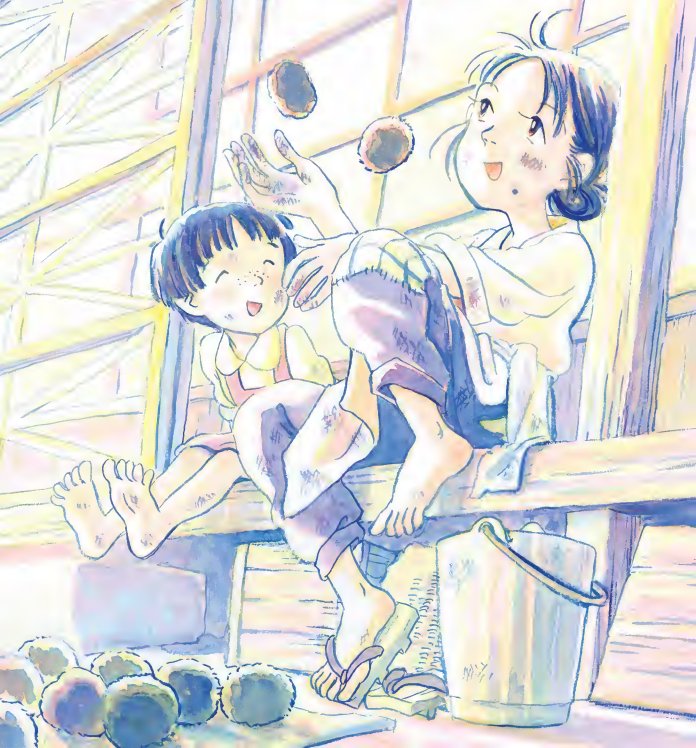


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CHAPTER 12

(July, 1944)

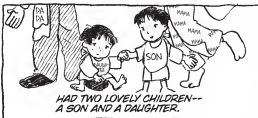


HER FATHER HAD JUST GOTTEN A NEW JOB, AND SHE THOUGHT TO BUY HIM A POCKET WATCH AS A GIFT.

ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE LIVED A FASHIONABLE MODERN GIRL.



SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE WATCH MAKER AND THE TWO WERE SOON...



HAD TWO LOVELY CHILDREN-- A SON AND A DAUGHTER.

NOW, THE WATCH MAKER HAD FRAIL HEALTH, SO THE ARMY DID NOT DRAFT HIM FOR THE WAR.



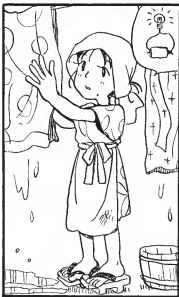
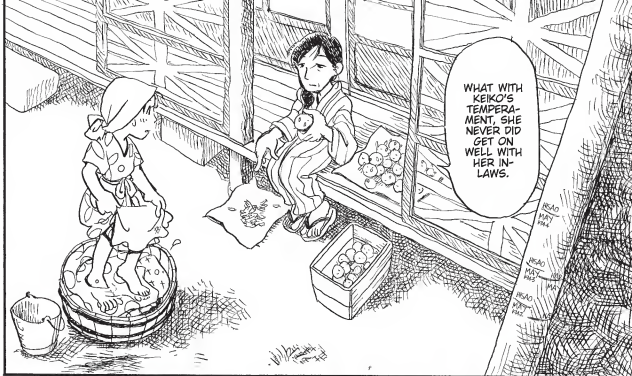
BUT BECAUSE OF HIS FRAIL HEALTH, HE SOON PASSED AWAY FROM ILLNESS.

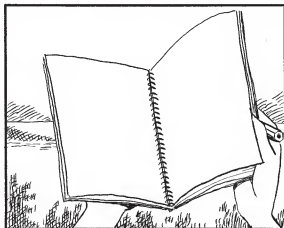
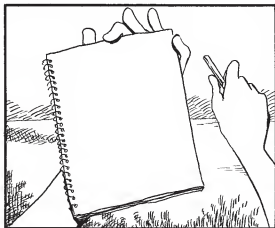
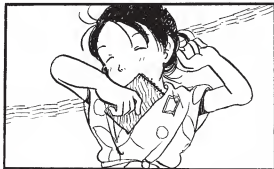
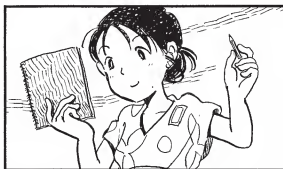
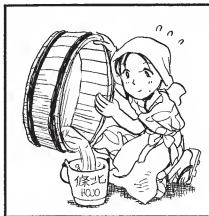
THE FORMER MODERN GIRL RETURNED TO HER BIRTH FAMILY A WIDOW.



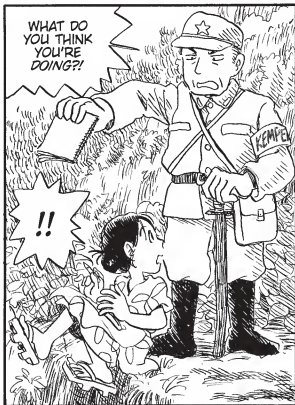
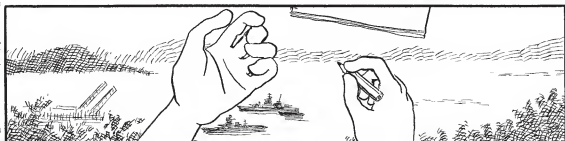
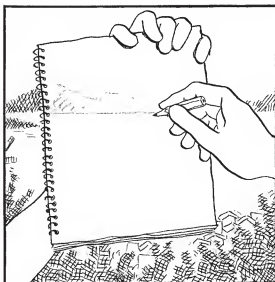
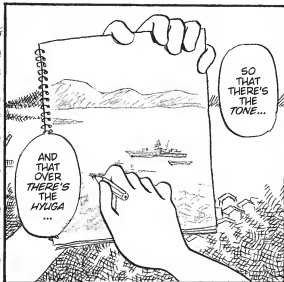
LEAVING HER SON WITH HER IN-LAWS AS THEIR FAMILY HEIR...

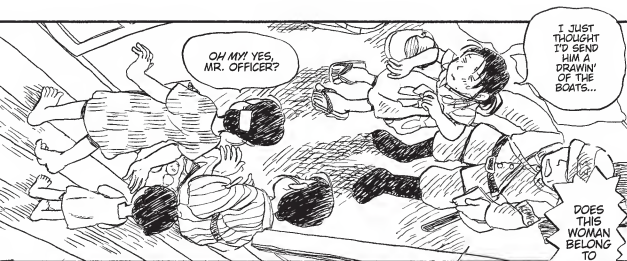
The Japanese word "mo-gi" is a slang term shortened from the English words "modern girl". Japan's equivalent to the United States' flappers, "mo-gi" were women who followed Western fashions and styles in the 1920s and 1930s. Men who followed similar fashions in that era were known as "modern boys", which was often shortened to the term "mo-bo".





The Kempetai (lit. military police corps) was the military police arm of the Japanese army. Established in 1881 and disbanded in 1945, the Kempetai functioned less as a traditional law enforcement agency and more as a secret police across the years. During the war they policed all aspects of civilians' everyday lives, enforcing propaganda, suppressing dissent, and many other acts that would later be considered war crimes.





In order to protect sensitive information, in clips with major military installations, like Kure, drawing or taking pictures of anything—including basic scenery—was considered an act of espionage and was strictly forbidden.



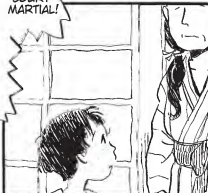
I CAUGHT HER SITTING BY THE BAY DRAWING THE SHIPS! THAT'S ESPIONAGE!!



IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, THIS WOMAN'S HUSBAND IS A MINOR CLERK AT THE NAVY'S COURT-MARTIAL!

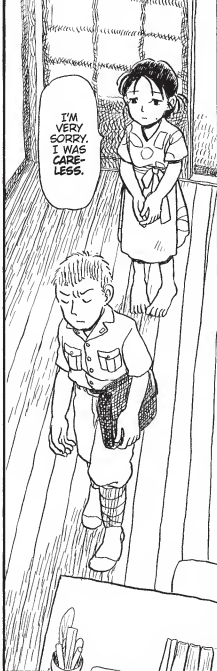
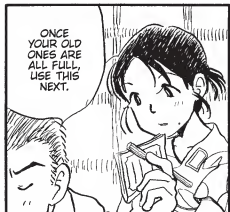
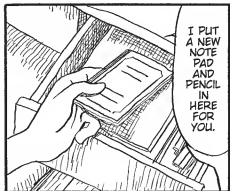
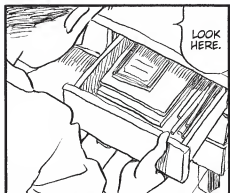


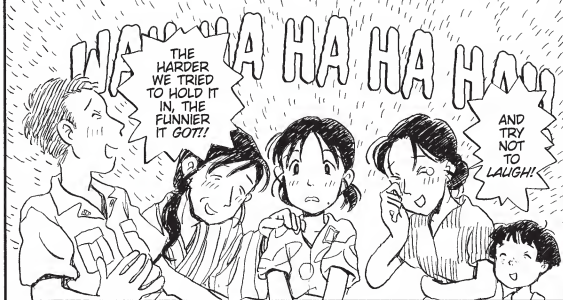
HAVE YOU HEARD EITHER OF 'EM TALKING ABOUT SECRET INFORMATION?!



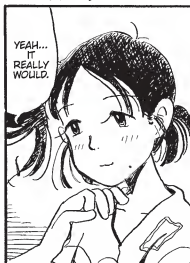


The court-martial is a special judicial court for trying members of the military and their families. Shusaku was employed at Kure's judicial offices as a civilian clerk. He was officially ranked as a "junior officer, third class" so he was very much at the bottom of the totem pole.



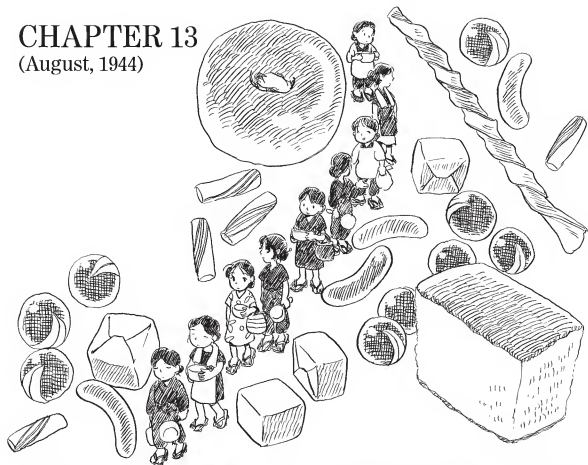


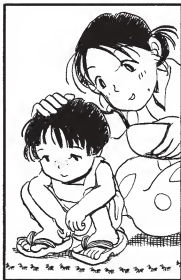
"IT'D BE SO MUCH NICER IF WE COULD ALL JUST SMILE AND LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE."

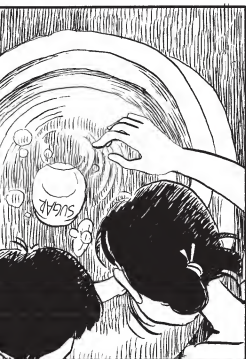
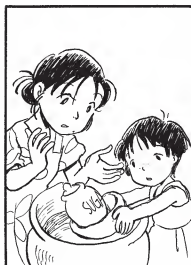
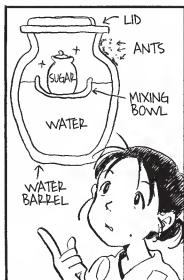


CHAPTER 13

(August, 1944)

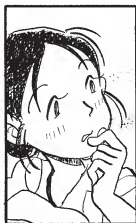
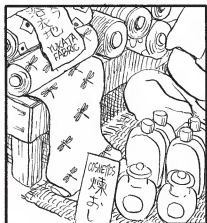
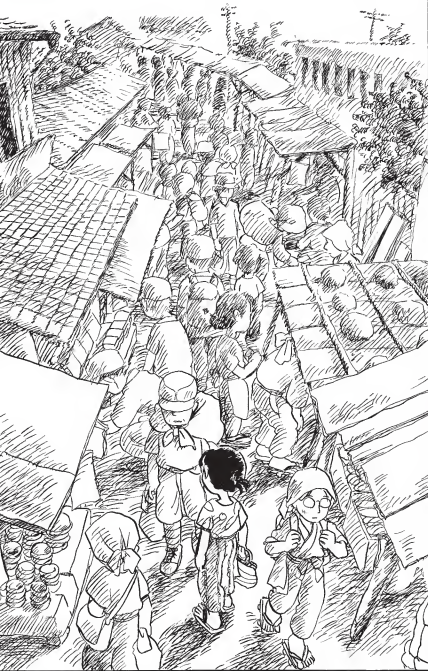




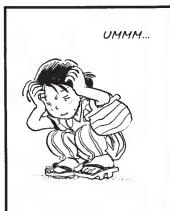
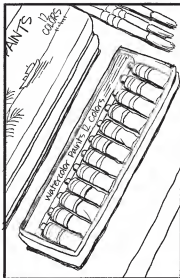




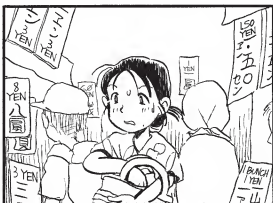
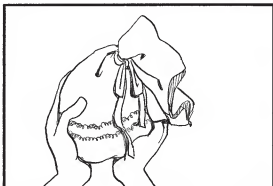
Japan endured food and commodity shortages for years due to the war effort. Black markets sold foodstuffs and daily items that had grown scarce, ignoring state-imposed regulations on price and rationing. By 1944, most common families purchased a significant portion of their food and daily necessities from black markets.

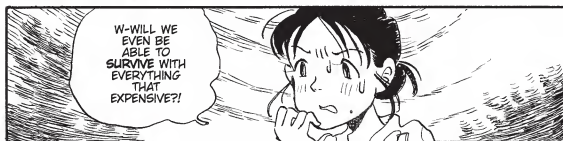


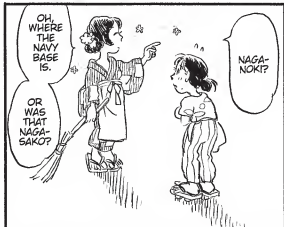
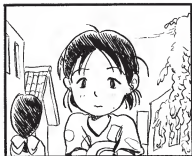
*1 kin (斤) equals 600 grams or 1.323 pounds.



*The average consumer price index of the time is thought to have been about two to three thousandths of what it is today. However, foodstuffs were significantly more expensive, at about one thousandth of today's average.

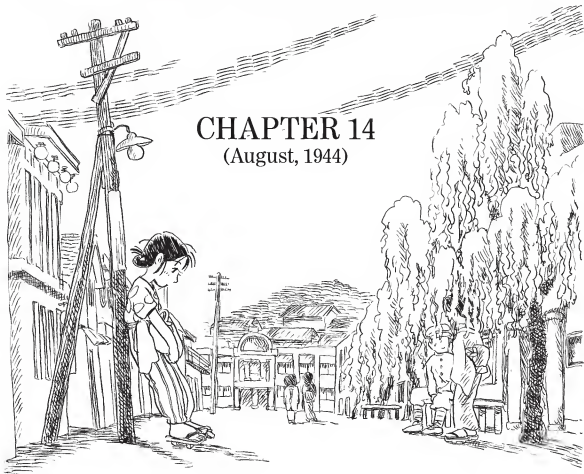


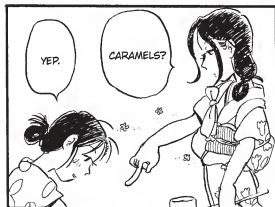
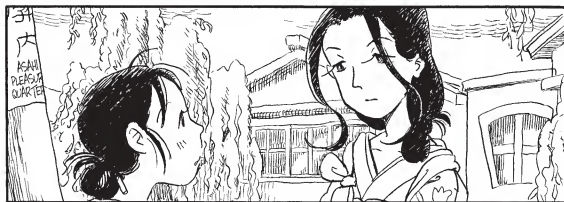
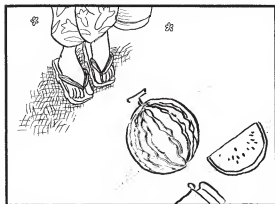
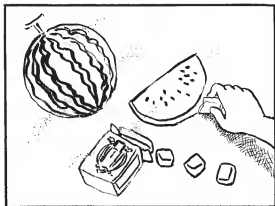




CHAPTER 14

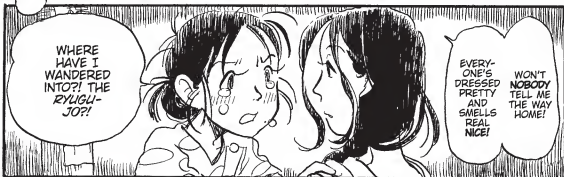
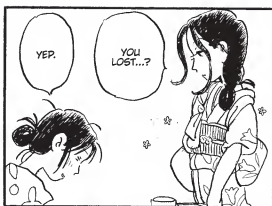
(August, 1944)



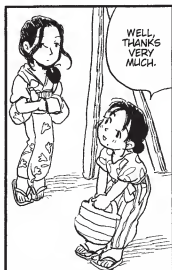
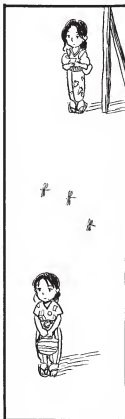
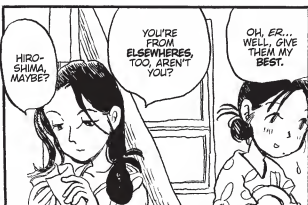


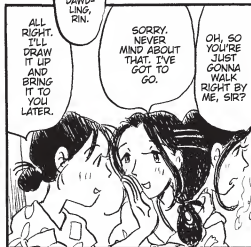
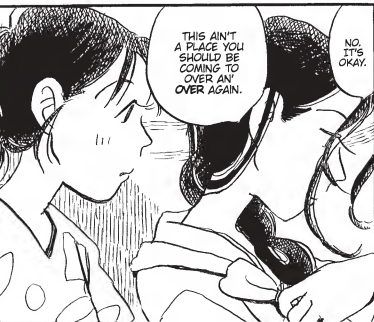
According to Japanese folklore, Ryogujō, or Dragon Palace, is the undersea palace of a dragon god. It is usually noted for its splendour.

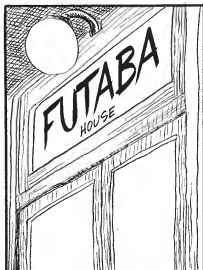
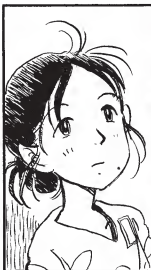
In the early twentieth century, the Asahi Pleasure Quarters was one of the largest red-light districts in western Japan. Nothing remains of it in present day Asahi Town, Kyū.



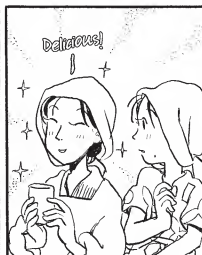
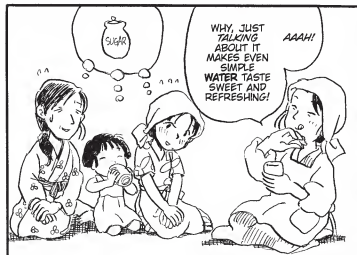
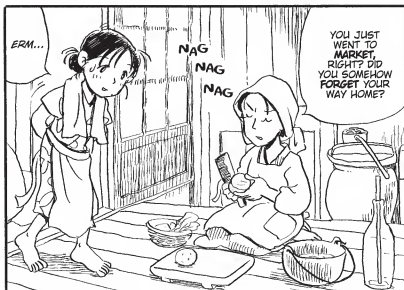
Appappapa is a type of light and loose one-piece summer dress based off of Western-style night-gowns. Meant for wearing around the house, they first went on sale in the late 1920s as cool summer-wear in response to some unusually hot summers. They continued to be popular through the 1930s as part of the Western fashion boom. The name is thought to come from either the English "up a pants" or the flapping sound the loose sleeves make when walking.







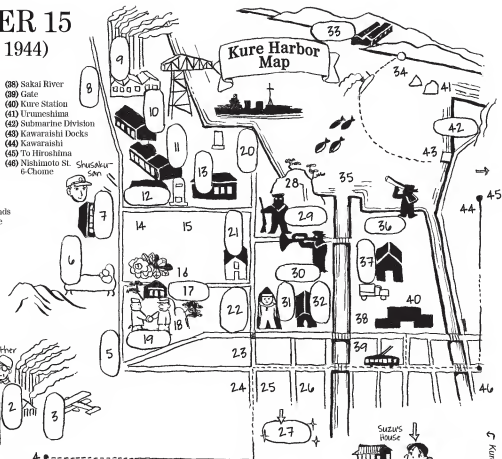




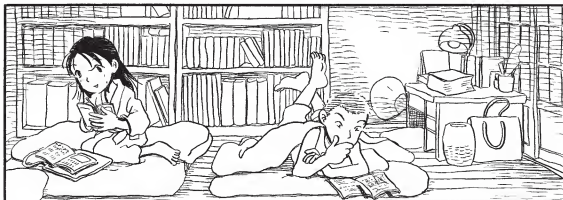
CHAPTER 15

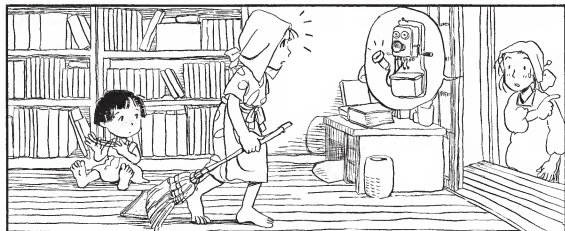
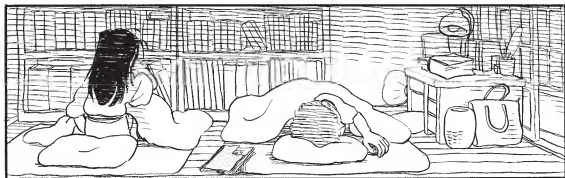
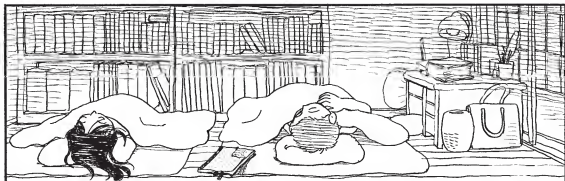
(September, 1944)

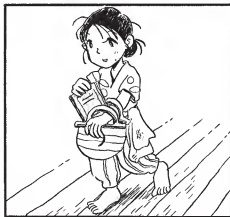
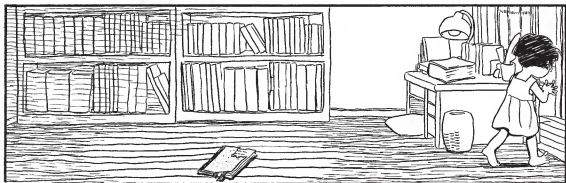
- (1) 11th Naval Arsenal
- (2) Hiro Aircraft Factory
- (3) Kure Naval Air Group
- (4) Gate #1
- (5) Gate #2
- (6) Naval Hospital
- (7) Naval Court-Martial
- (8) Gate #3
- (9) Kure Arsenal
- (10) Personnel
- (11) Naval District
- (12) Disbursement
- (13) Operations
- (14) First Navy Parade Grounds
- (15) Naval District Post Office
- (16) Ootome Camellia Trees
- (17) Oushou Hall
- (18) Mt. Choukai
- (19) Officers' Club
- (20) Armory North Gate
- (21) Facilities
- (22) Enlistee's Club
- (23) Megane Bridge
- (24) Yotsudoro
- (25) Matsu St.
- (26) Middle St.
- (27) Downtown
- (28) Mt. Shiro
- (29) Naval Guard
- (30) Marine Corps
- (31) #1 Gate
- (32) Navy Exchange
- (33) Naval Academy
- (34) Koro
- (35) #1 Landing
- (36) Port Office
- (37) Munitions



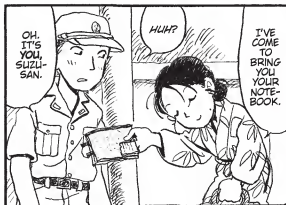
Kure Gunfou Arima, 1933 Iss. Nakamura Susukichi

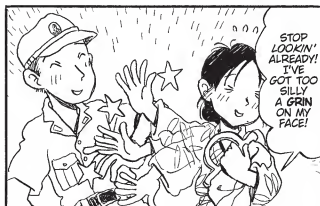
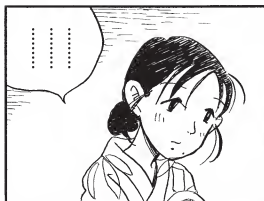


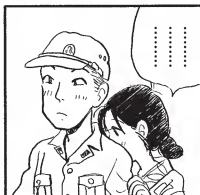
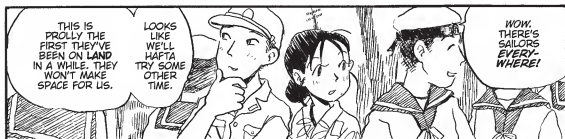
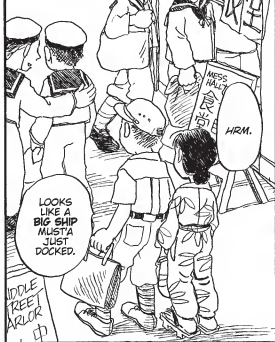


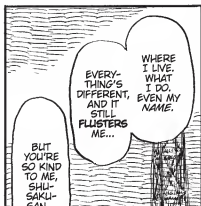


吳鎮守府軍法會議

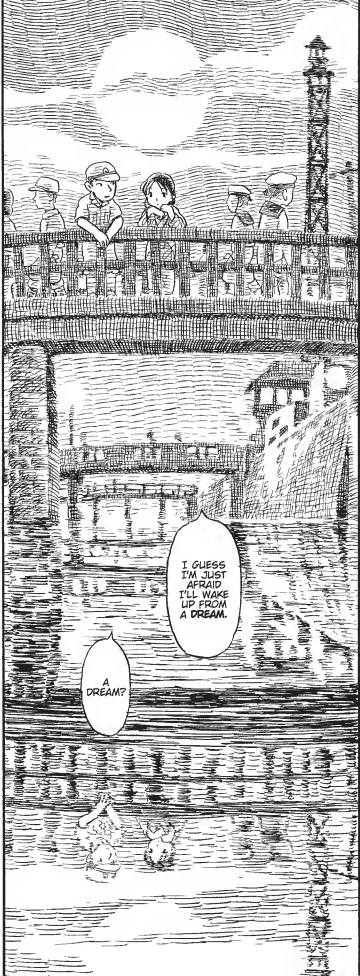
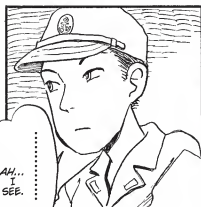


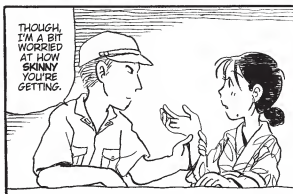
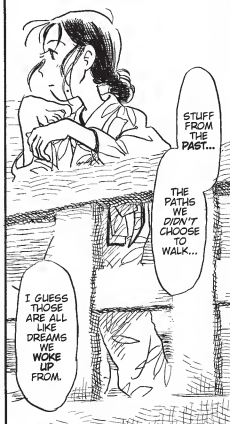






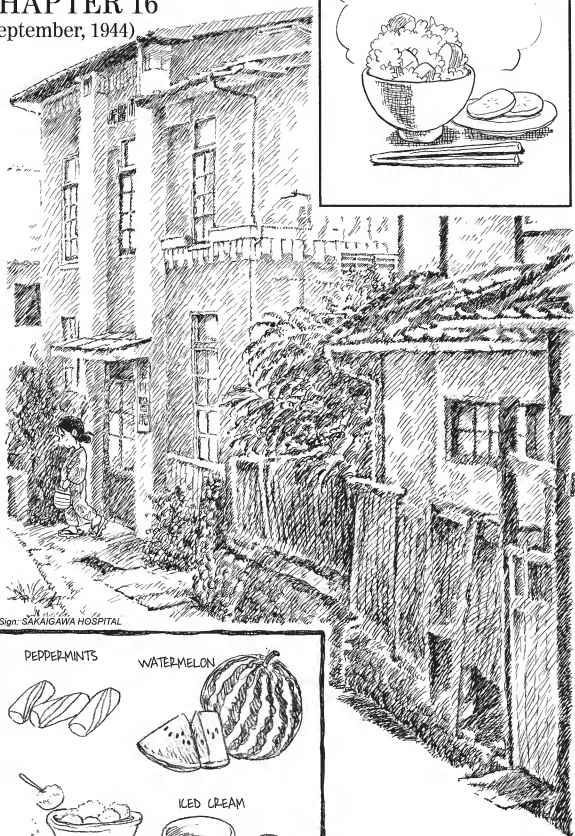
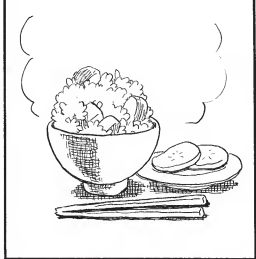
BUT YOU'RE SO KIND TO ME, SHU-SAKU-SAN...





CHAPTER 16

(September, 1944)

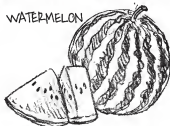


Sign: SAKAIGAWA HOSPITAL

PEPPERMINTS



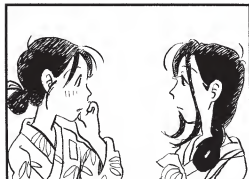
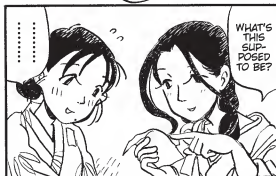
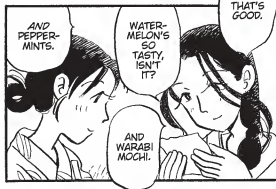
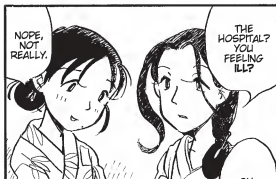
WATERMELON



WARABI MOCHI
LAKES

ICED CREAM





Shiraki Rin

Futaba House
Employee

Kure City,
Asahi Town,

Asahi Pleasure
Quarters

Type A

WRITING
YOUR NAME
BADGE
MUST BE
A RIGHT
BOTHER,
THEN.

GOSH.
IS
THAT
ALL?

I GOT
TO GO TO
PRIMARY
SCHOOL FOR
ABOUT HALF
A YEAR, SO
I CAN MAKE
OUT SOME
KATAKANA.

OH,
THAT WAS
JUST
FINE.

IT'S
A LITTLE
LATE NOW,
BUT I
GUESS
I'D BEST
INTRODUCE
MYSELF,
TOO.

OH,
WOW.
SO
YOUR
NAME IS
SHIRAKI
RIN, HM?

A NICE
CUSTOMER
WROTE IT
OUT FOR
ME, SO
ALL I'VE
GOTTA DO
IS COPY
IT.

SUZU



JO

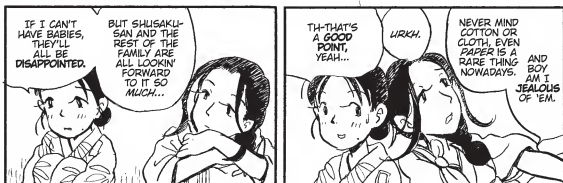
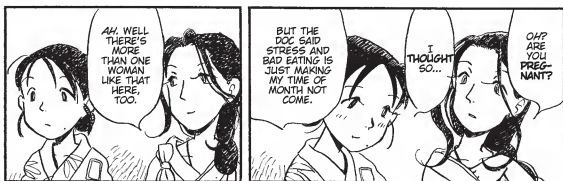
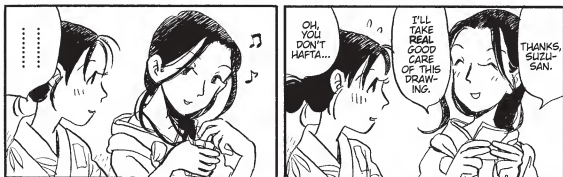


HO

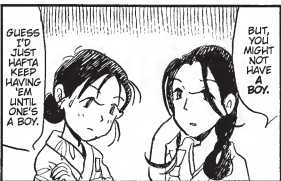
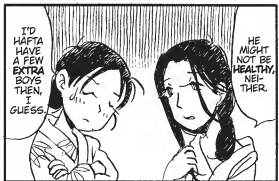
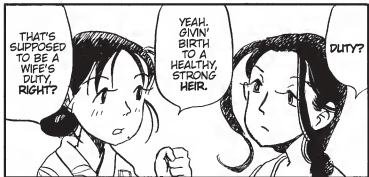
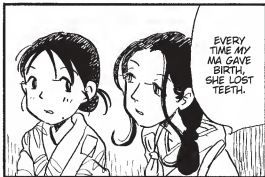
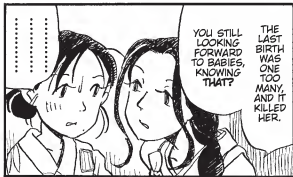
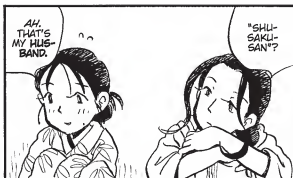
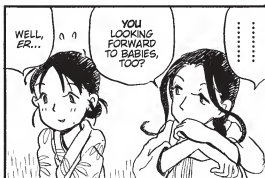


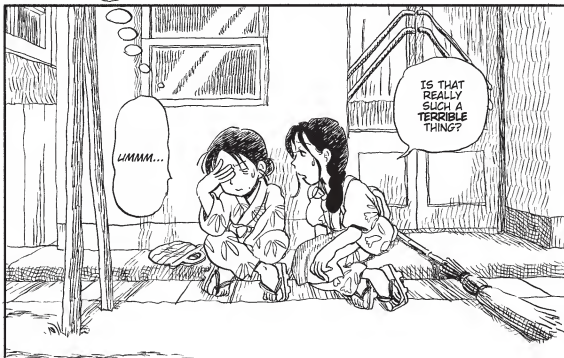
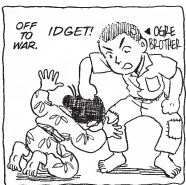
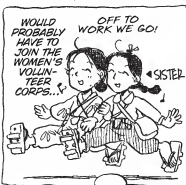
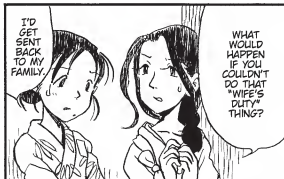
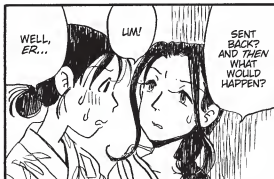
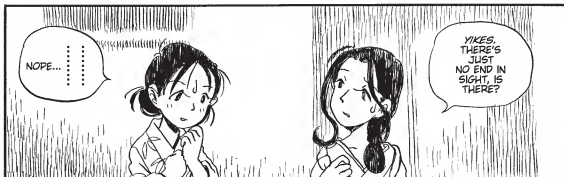
LOCK
AND
KEY
IS A
"JO"...

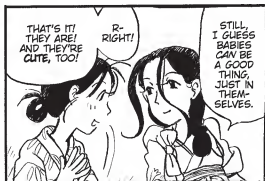
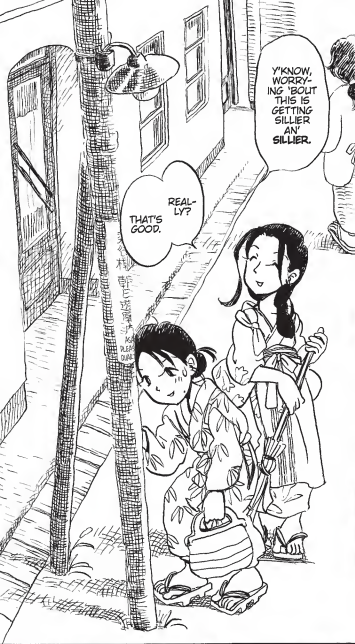
LET'S
SEE
...
OWLS
SAY
"HO"
...

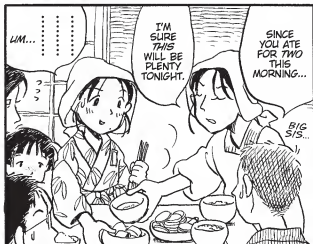
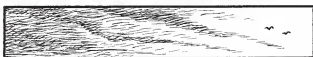


When a mature woman doesn't have her period for an extended time, it is called amenorrhea. Thanks to stress, excessive labor and poor diet, enough women at that time experienced it—especially younger women who worked in factories—that it became something of a social issue.

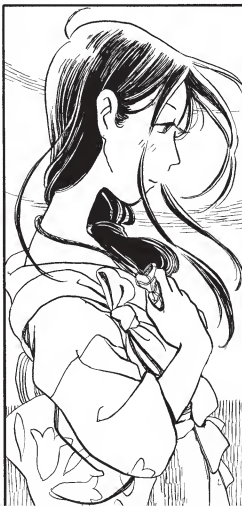






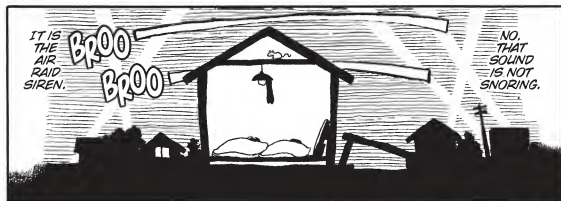


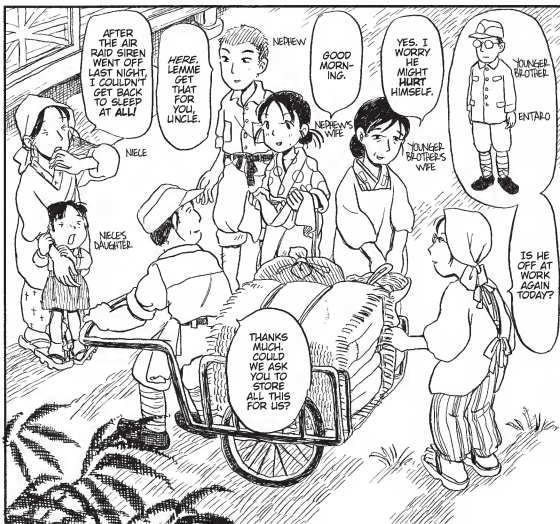
BY THE WAY THIS IS A BOWL OF JUST BROTH SKIMMED OFF THE TOP OF RICE GRUEL.

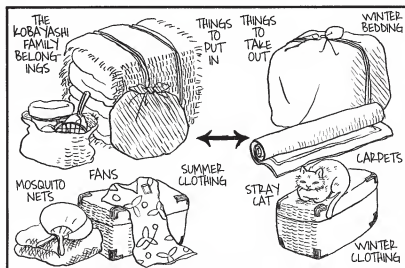
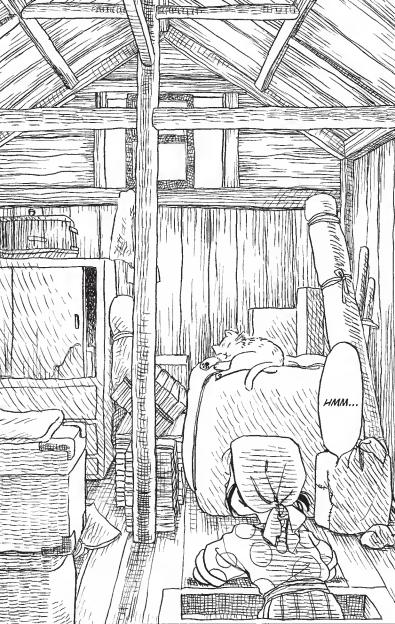


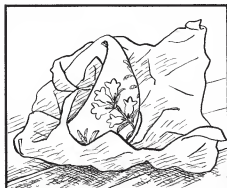
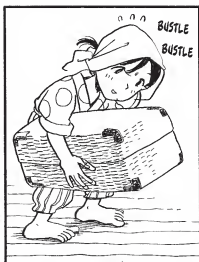
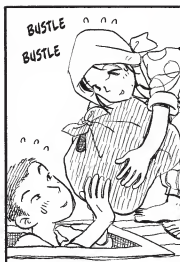
CHAPTER 17

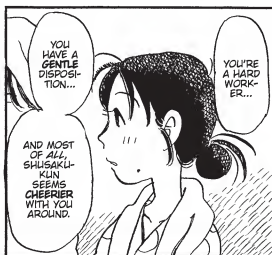
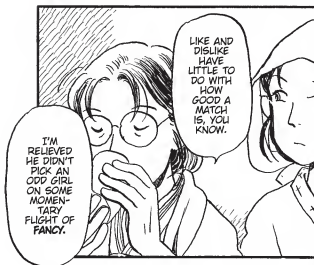
(October, 1944)

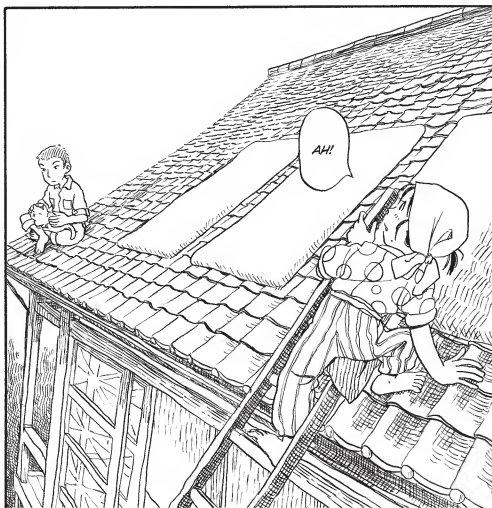
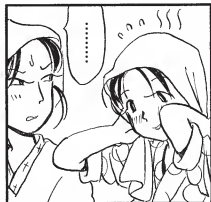
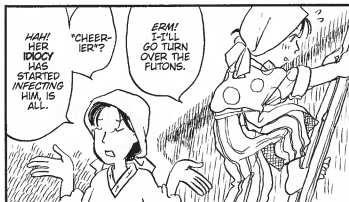
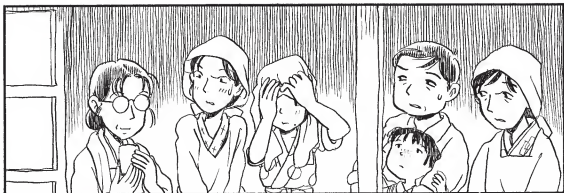










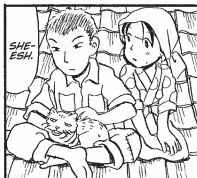




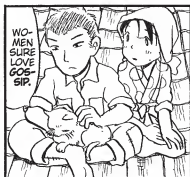
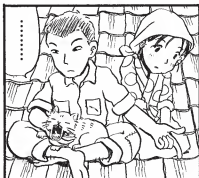
HEY,
SUZU-
SAN?

THAT
BOWL.

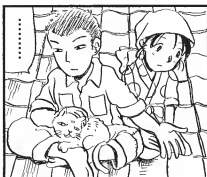
IT
HAVE A
GENTIAN
FLOWER
PATTERN
ON IT?



SHE-
ESH.



WO-
MEN
SURE
LOVE
GOS-
SIP.



'SPECIALLY
MY
AUNT.

I'LL HAVE
TO LOOK
FOR MORE
GOOD OFFERS
FOR YOU,
KEIKO-CHAN.



REALLY?
WHY
THANK
YOU!

IT
SEEMS
A LITTLE
FANCY
FOR ME,
THOUGH.

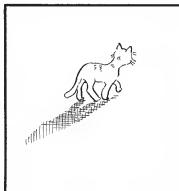
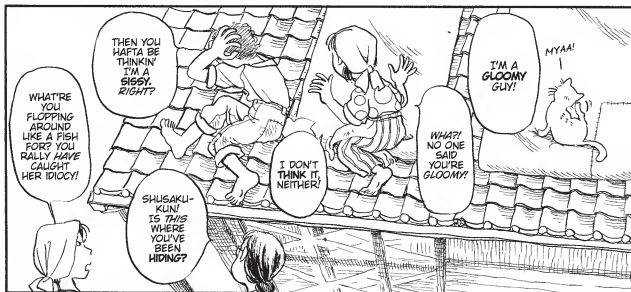


I
BOUGHT
IT A
WHILE
AGO
THINKIN'
I'D GIVE
IT TO
THE LADY
I GOT
AS MY
BRIDE.



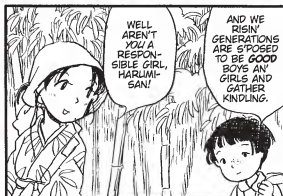
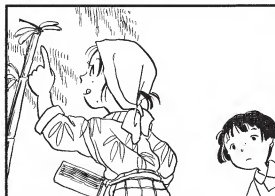
HM?
OH,
YES.

IT'S
MINE,
THEN.
YOU CAN
HAVE IT.

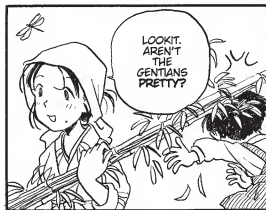
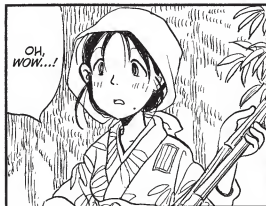
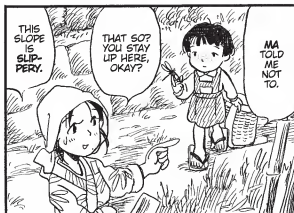


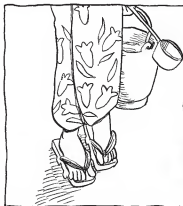
CHAPTER 18

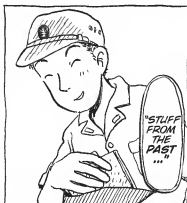
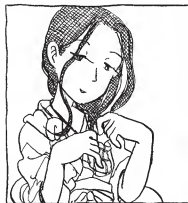
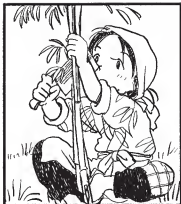
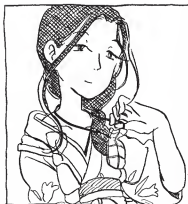
(October, 1944)

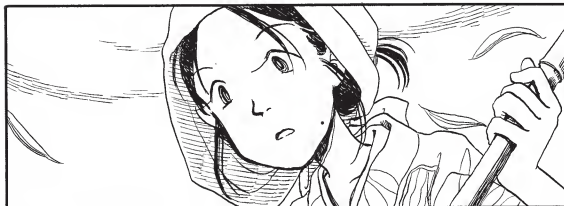
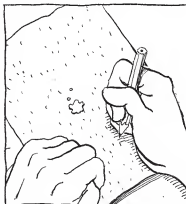
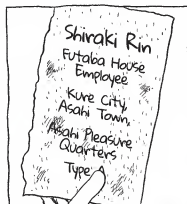
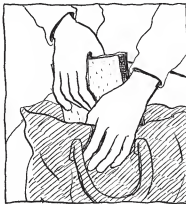
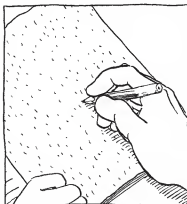
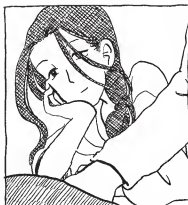


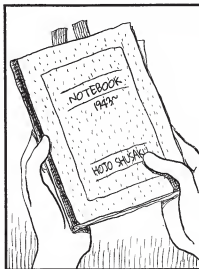
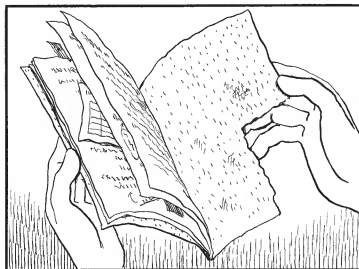
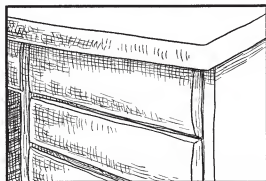
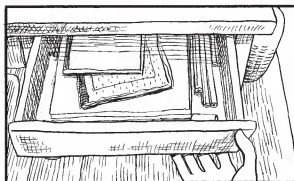
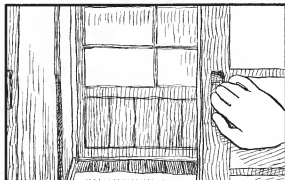
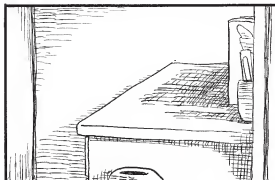
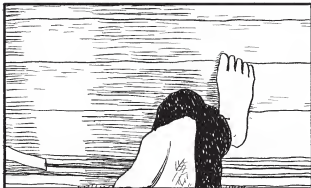
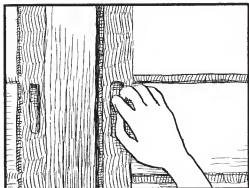
The "rising generation," or *shōkokuimin* in Japanese, was a patriotic term used to mean "children."





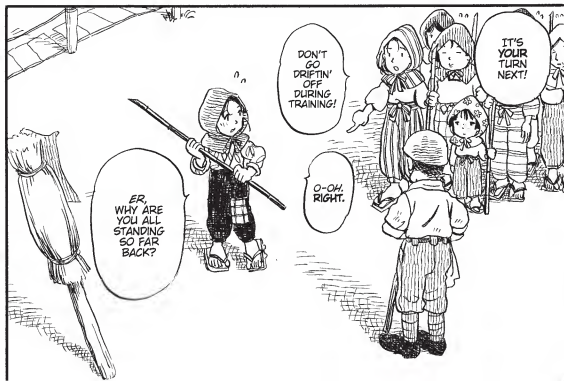
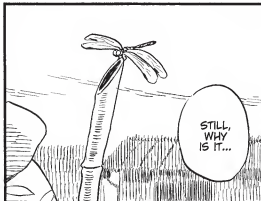
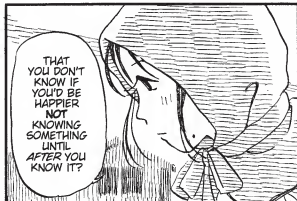
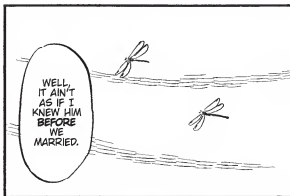
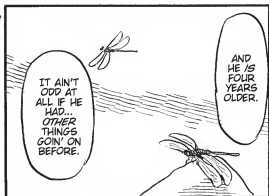






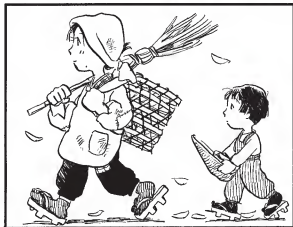
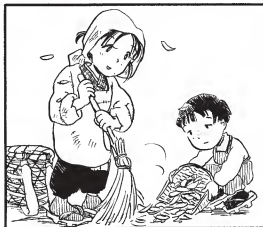


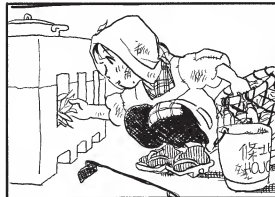
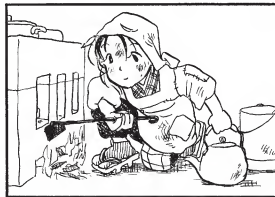
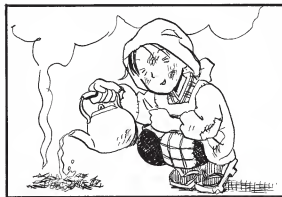
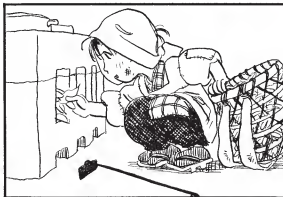
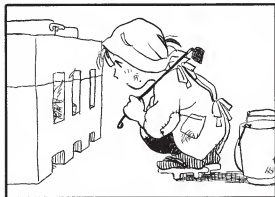
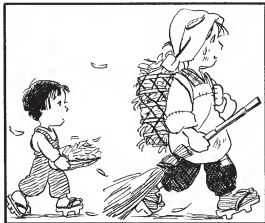
During the latter end of the war, the threat of an Allied invasion of the Japanese home islands proper loomed. As a form of defense, many civilians—mostly women and children—were taught basic combat. Since there was little to no modern weaponry left, they were mostly armed with old swords or bamboo spears. This training became mandatory in 1945, when the Volunteer Corps was re-formed into a civilian militia.

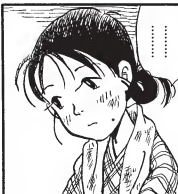
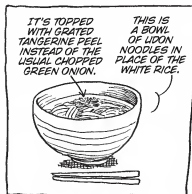
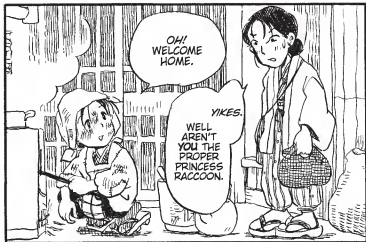


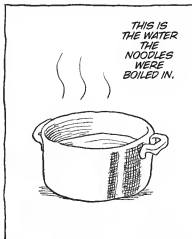
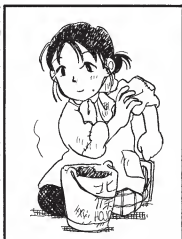
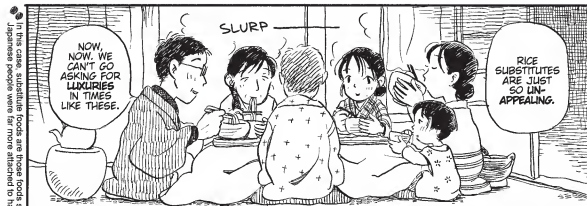
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(November, 1944)

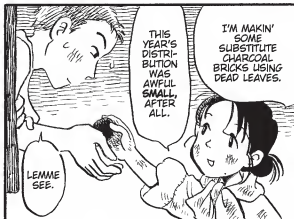
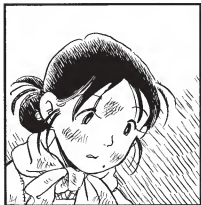








In this case, substitute foods are those foods switched in to take the place of staple foods like rice, bread or potatoes. In those days, Japanese people were far more attached to having rice daily than they are today.



THEY ARE
ALSO A
SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SUBSTITUTE
CHARCOAL.



THESE
ARE DRIED
CAKES
OF HALF-
BURNED
LEAF ASH
MIXED WITH
THE WATER
FROM
BOILING
UDON
NOODLES.

THEY
ARE A
SUBSTITUTE
FOR
REGULAR
CHARCOAL.



THESE ARE
CHARCOAL
BRIQUETTES.
THEY'RE
MADE BY
MIXING
POWDERED
CHARCOAL
TOGETHER
WITH FLUOR-
GLUE, THEN
FORMING
BRICKS
AND DRYING
THEM.

THIS
HERE IS
NORMAL
CHARCOAL.

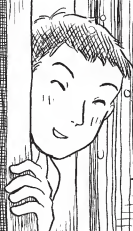


SHUSAKU-
SAN...?



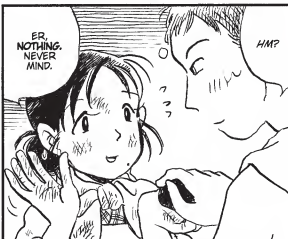
ALL
RIGHT
THEN--
JUST
FINISH
UP AND
HURRY
ON
INSIDE.

YOUR
HANDS
WERE
ICE
COLD!

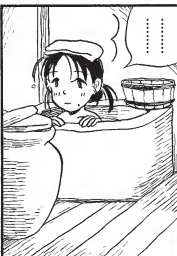


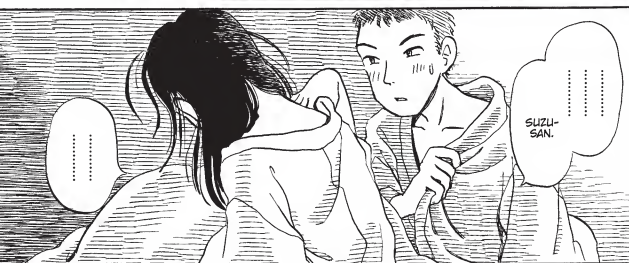
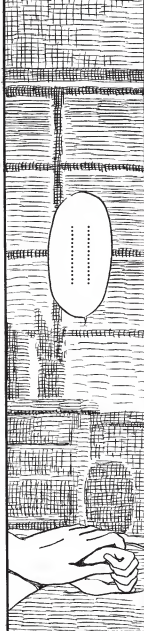
ER,
NOTHING.
NEVER
MIND.

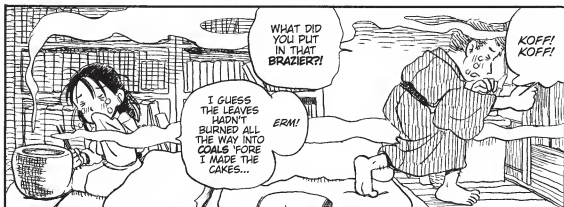
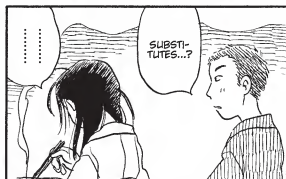
HMP?



OKAY...



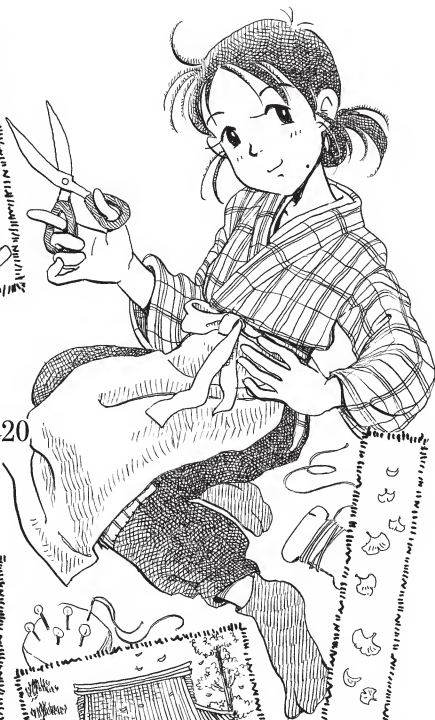






CHAPTER 20

(November, 1944)



MOUSE



INCENDIARY
BOMB



I suggest removing the tiles from your roof. Thus, the mice will lose their playground, and incendiary bombs will not be impeded in their descent.



Nowadays, the mice under the roof and the air raid sirens are so noisy I can't get a wink of sleep.

-Old Woman Visiting a Grave (60)



My first advice is vigorous and repeated thwackings with a sturdy broom. If this does not induce the layabout to action, I suggest starting a rumor that he will leap into the arms of anyone nearby in fright at the sight of an earthworm.



My husband refuses to aid our neighbors in constructing an air raid shelter, leaving me ashamed of his lazy attitude. What ought I do?

-Wife of an Altar Fittings Merchant (41)





The world is filled with brimming with people with whom you will not get on well. I suggest greeting them loudly and obviously, to shame them into a polite response.



I am having difficulties making friends with the other women working at my place of deployment.

—A Girl Attending a Memorial Service (17)



My teacher plays favorites, making it difficult for me to get along at school.

—A Young Boy Attending a Memorial Service (10)

Receiving a cryptic letter from an unknown person is by itself a plenty inauspicious occasion. However, fortunately enough, I had just been wishing I had a piece of paper.



This letter is not an inauspicious sign. We simply wish to express how fed up we have become with this war business. Let us all gather together in numbers the gods cannot ignore and pray for peace. To the person who has received this letter, please copy it word for word and pass it to 50 of your acquaintances. Do so, and peace will come.

I found this letter inside our offering box.

—Shrine Keeper (70)

OFFERINGS BOX



A shrine keeper is a person responsible for watching over and maintaining a temple or shrine. In the True Pure Land Sect of Buddhism, which is prevalent in both Hiroshima and Kyoto, the temple priest's wife is often referred to as the "shrine keeper."



My husband positively
refuses to permit me to
relinquish the platinum
ring he gifted to me.
That seems...stingy and
unpatriotic of him.

—Greater Japan
Women's Association
Officer (50)



From
October
to December
of 1944, platinum
and diamonds
were requisitioned
by the Japanese
government as
military supplies.
All citizens were
required to turn
in any that they
owned, in ex-
change for minor
compensation.

Tairikuteki
is an
adjective
that typically
means
"continental," but
in the 1930s
and 1940s, it was
apparently also
used as a word
to describe
someone who
was generally
absent-minded.



I firmly
suggest you
do not inquire
as to why.

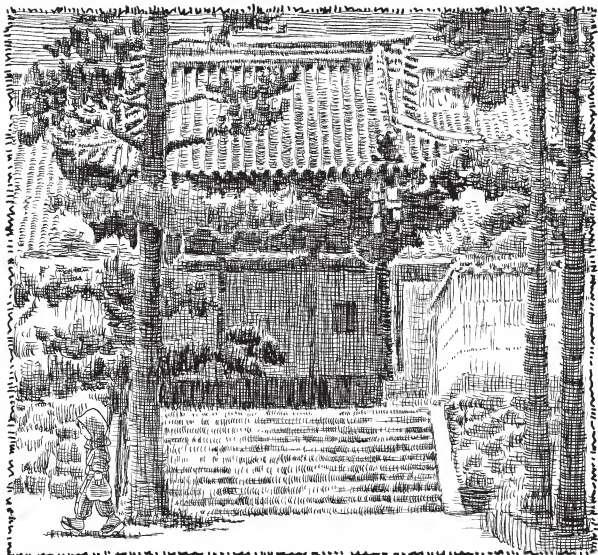
Everyone has
things at which
they excel and
things at which
they do not. Care
for her as you
would a true
sister and have
patience in
teaching her the
right way
of things.

—Buddhist Priest

I have decided to attempt
entrusting my sister-
in-law with a few house
chores, but she is rather
tairikuteki in character.
She is particularly fumble-
fingered and oblivious in
regards to needlework. It is
beginning to concern me.

—Working Woman (28)





Anyone will have
the occasional
day when everything
and everyone around
them seems foolish
and meaningless.

However, if
these thoughts
persist, you need
your head
examined.
I suggest
you seek
professional
help right
away.



Everyone
who works
earnestly at
their meaning-
less jobs in
today's world
seems the fool
to me. Oh, how
the people of
the Greater
Japanese
Empire have
fallen.

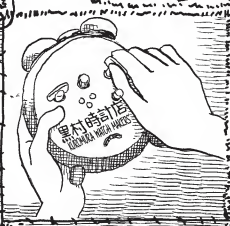
—Aspiring
Writer (20)

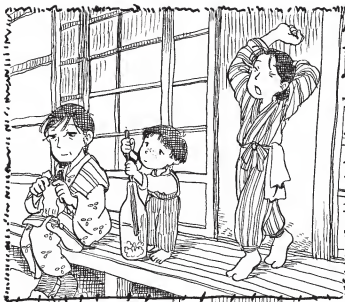




I live
far
away
from
my
mother
and my
little
sister.
I want
to see
them
again.

—Young
Boy (7)





In those days, when a married couple split or the husband died, custody of children was almost always given to the husband's family. Custody of eldest children especially was never given to the wife, no matter how they tried to negotiate. In the rare case of a husband marrying into the wife's family the situation was reversed, with children going to the wife's family.

Have patience. One day soon, your mother and sister will come to see you, bearing a wagon-load of treats and toys.



I first suggest you tell all to your honorable Elder Sister.

Oh? Such as?

I made a terrible mistake that may never be undone.

—Housewife (19)



AND
WRONG
IN
WHICH
WAY?

YOU
CUT
THE
WRONG
WHAT?

WHAT
DID
YOU
EVEN
INTEND
TO
MAKE?

RUSTIC
COUNTRY-
SIDE STYLE?
POOR
FISHERMAN
STYLE? OR
JUST A
PLAIN LACK
OF ANY
FASHION
SENSE
AT ALL?

IN FACT,
WHAT
SORT OF
FASHION
SENSE
IS THAT
WIN THE
FIRST
PLACE?

"You
ought
to care
for her
as you
would a
true
sister..."

YOU'RE
ALWAYS
THE
FIRST
ONE
TO
SNIFF
OUT
THE
LATEST
FASH-
IONS,
KEIKO-
CHAN.

MY, MY!
WHAT A
THRIFTY
USE OF
CLOTH!

DID IT
HAVE TO
BE MY
COAT?!

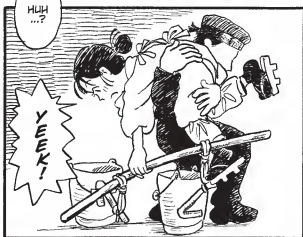
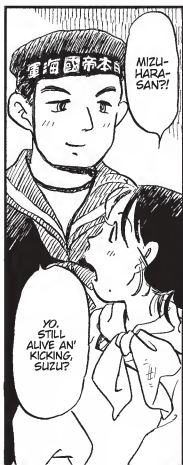
BUSTLE
BUSTLE

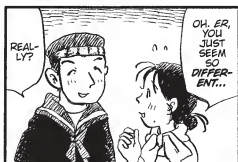
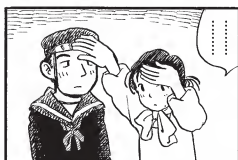
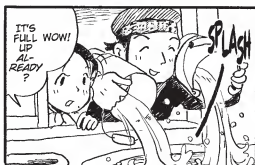
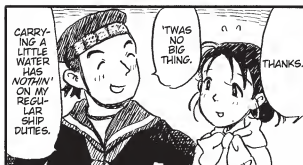
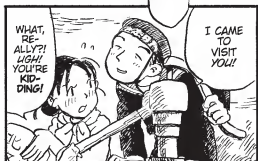
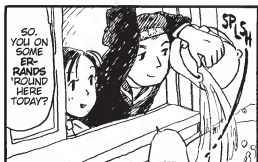
HMMM...



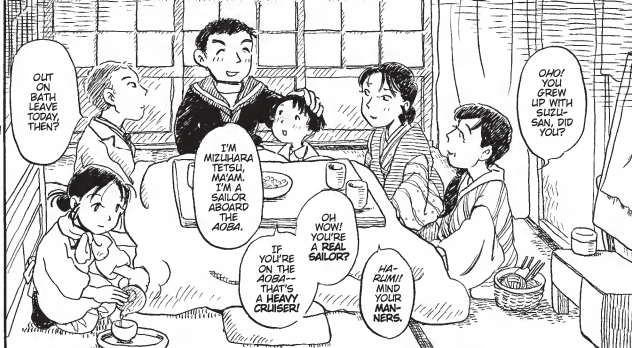
CHAPTER 21

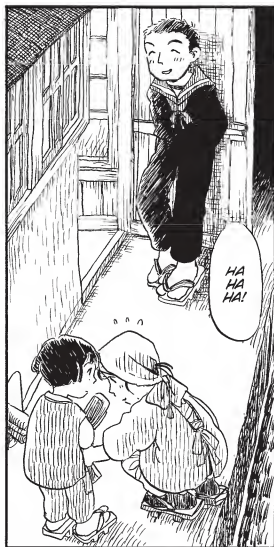
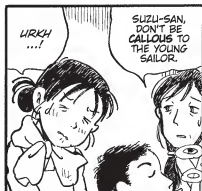
(December, 1944)

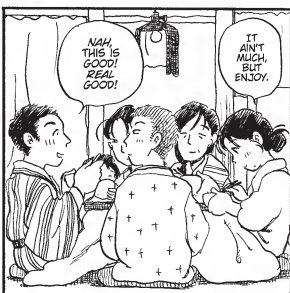


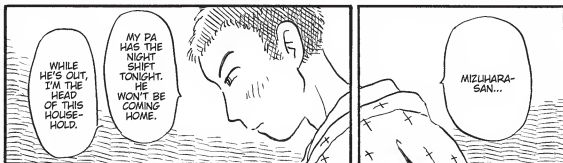
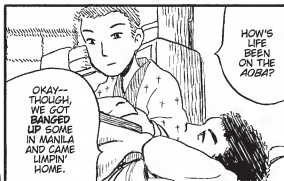


When their ship was in port, Japanese sailors were permitted to take overnight leave every few days under the pretense of getting a nice, relaxing bath. This was called taking bath leave.

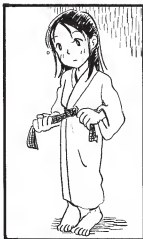


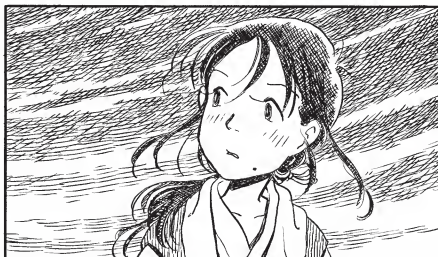
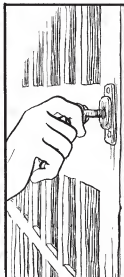






The Yasukuni Shrine, located in Tokyo, was founded in 1869. It was built to commemorate all of the people who died in service to Japan from that date forward—though its purpose has since been expanded to pay respects to anyone who died in any war involving Japan, regardless of nationality or which side they fought for.



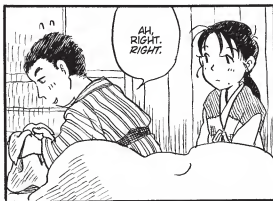
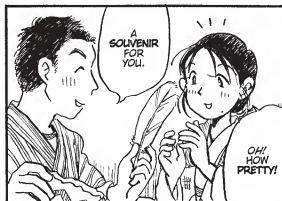
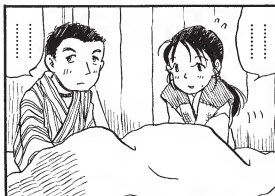


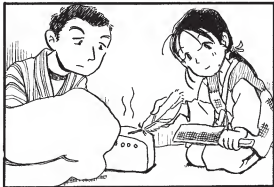
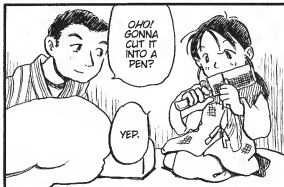
CHAPTER 22

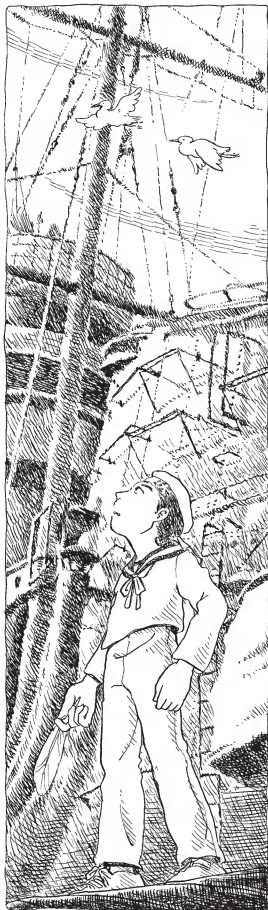
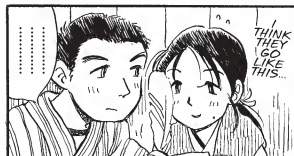
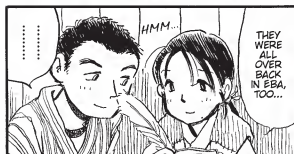
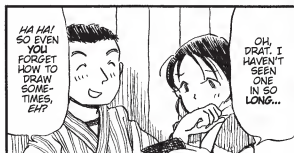
(December, 1944)



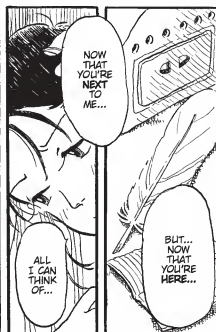
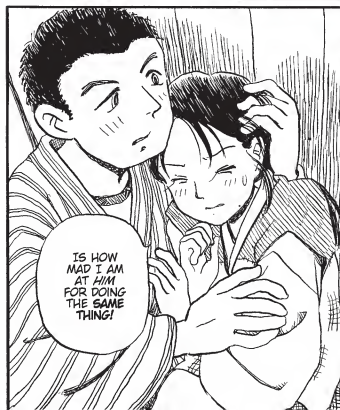
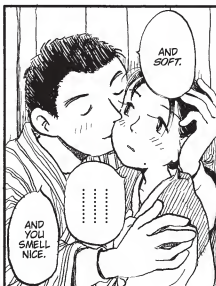
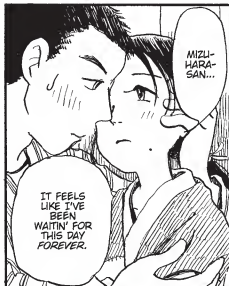
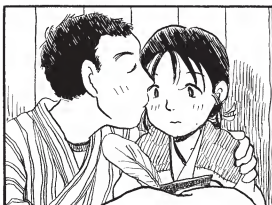
In those days, most Japanese sailors would sleep in hammocks suspended from ceiling hooks. They were often cold, cramped, and didn't allow for a person to stretch out, making them rather uncomfortable to sleep in.







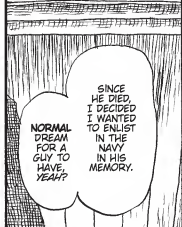
Many species of heron are partially migratory. The yellow-billed egret, a medium-sized heron, will spend summers in Japan, but migrate as far as Southeast Asia for winter.





THAT'S THE
NORMAL WAY OF
THINGS.

NAVY
SAILORS
ARE
SOLDIERS.
WHEN
THERE'S
WAR, WE
FIGHT.



NORMAL
DREAM
FOR A
GUY TO
HAVE,
YEAH?

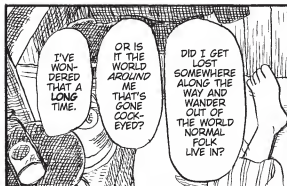
SINCE
HE DIED,
I DECIDED
I WANTED
TO ENLIST
IN THE
NAVY
IN HIS
MEMORY.



NORMAL
THING TO
DO,
YEAH?

HEY,
SUZU?

MY
BROTHER
WENT
TO THE
NAVAL
ACADEMY
'CUZ OUR
FAMILY'S
POOR.



I'VE
WONDERED
THAT A
LONG
TIME.

OR IS
IT THE
WORLD
AROUND
ME
THAT'S
GONE
COOK-
EYED?

DID I GET
LOST
SOMEWHERE
ALONG THE
WAY AND
WANDER
OUT OF
THE WORLD
NORMAL
FOLK
LIVE IN?



THAT
DOESN'T
SEEM
NORMAL
FOR PEOPLE,
DOES IT?
IT'S MORE
WHAT FOLK
DO 'ROUND
GODS AND
SHRINES.

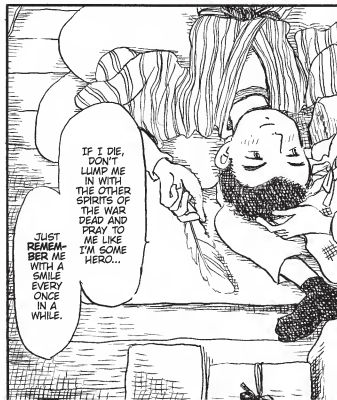
AND
TOADY
UP TO
ME WHEN
I AIN'T
DONE
NOTHIN'
OF MERIT.

YET, FOLK
DRESS
ME DOWN
EVEN
WHEN I
DIDN'T
MESS
UP...



SUZU.

SEEING YOU
BE NORMAL
TAKES THAT
LOAD OFF MY
SHOULDERS...



IF I DIE,
DON'T
LUMP ME
IN WITH
THE OTHER
SPIRITS OF
THE WAR
DEAD AND
PRAY TO
ME LIKE
I'M SOME
HERO...

JUST REMEM-
BER ME
WITH A
SMILE
EVERY
ONCE
IN A
WHILE.



YOU LIVIN'
HERE AND
PROTECTING
THIS FAMILY,
ME WORKIN'
ON THE
AOBA AND
PROTECT-
ING THIS
COUNTRY...
BOTH ARE
NORMAL
THINGS
TO DO.

I WANT YOU
TO STAY
HERE, A
NORMAL
GIRL IN A
NORMAL
WORLD...

A
SANE
WORLD.



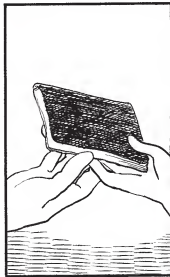
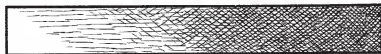
YEP. THE
ROAD'S
AWFUL
TWISTY
UP HERE.
I MIGHT
GET
LOST.

LEAVING
AL-
READY?



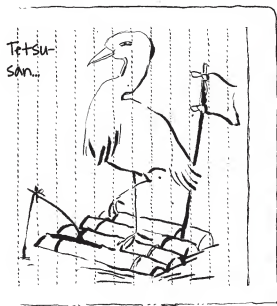
OKAY...

AND IF YOU
CAN'T DO
THAT, JUST
FORGET
ABOUT ME
ENTIRELY.
OKAY?

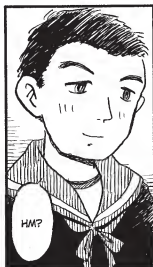


SO
I DID.
THANKS.

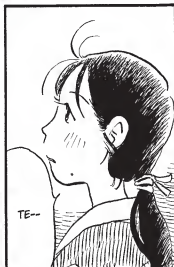
HERE. YOU
ALMOST
FORGOT
YOUR
JOURNAL.



Tetsu-
san...



HM?



TE--

Thank you for the feather.
Thank you for becoming
a good, strong,
kind man. I'm
glad I got to
see you alive
one more time.
Suzu

Tetsu-
san...



YOU'VE
BECOME
A REAL
DOLL,
Y'KNOW!

HEY!!

SURE,
SUZU.

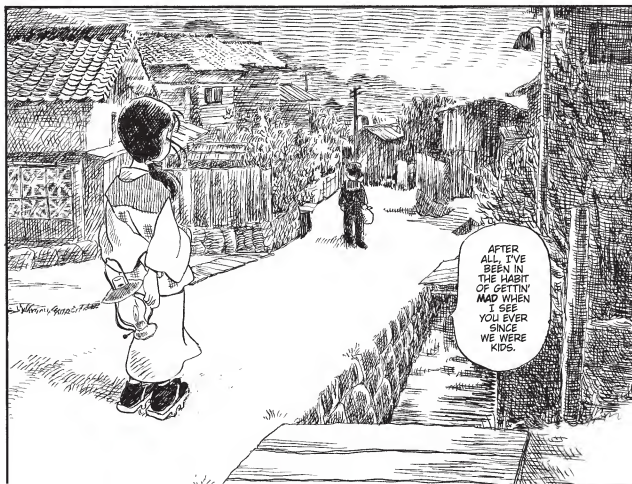


MIZU-
HARA-
SAN,
THANKS
FOR THE
FEATHER.

SAYIN' THE
WORDS, OR
EVEN LETTING
THEM SHOW
ON MY FACE.



IT SURE
IS HARDER
THAN I
THOUGHT...



AFTER
ALL, I'VE
BEEN IN
THE HABIT
OF GETTIN'
MAD WHEN
I SEE
YOU EVER
SINCE
WE WERE
KIDS.

CHAPTER 23

(January, 1945)

Karuta is a traditional Japanese matching game using two decks of special cards. The object of the game is to determine which card displayed matches the card that has been read aloud, and grabbing it before any other player. Whoever grabs the most cards by the end is the winner.

Iroha-karuta is a simpler variant aimed at children, using two decks of 48 cards each. One deck of cards features proverbs, each one starting with a different letter of the hiragana syllabary. The other deck is picture cards illustrating each proverb, with the first syllable written in the card's upper corner.

**PATRIOTIC
IROHA KARUTA
AS ENACTED BY THE
JAPAN CHILDREN'S
CULTURE ASSOCIATION**



**ISE NO
KAMIKAZE,
TEKIKOKU
KOUFUKU.
(ENEMIES FALL
BEFORE THE ISE
GODS' DIVINE WIND.)**



**"HAI" DE
HAJIMARU
GO-HOUKOU.
(VOLUNTEERING
BEGINS WITH
"YES.")**



**NIPPON-
BARE NO
TENCHOUSETSU.
(CLEAR DAY ACROSS
THE NATION FOR
THE EMPEROR'S
BIRTHDAY.)**

**ROBATA DE
KIKU SENSO
NO HANASHI.
(LISTENING TO
ELDERS' STORIES
BY THE FIRESIDE.)**



**HOMARE HA
TAKASHI, KYUU
GUN-JIN.
(GLORY TO THE
NINE HONORABLE
GODS OF WAR.)**



In Japan, the Emperor's birthday is celebrated as a holiday. During the Showa Era (1926-1989) that day was April 29th. It is still a holiday today, known as "Showa Day," a day to reflect on the events of the Showa Era.

The "nine gods of war" in this case refer to nine of the ten Japanese service members who piloted the five Type A Ko-ryu-ryoku midair submarines that participated in the attack on Pearl Harbor. Those nine perished in the attack, and in 1942 were enshrined as Shinto gods. The tenth member was taken prisoner by US forces.

**CHIISAI KOTO
KARA OOKI-NA
HATSUMEI.**

(FROM SMALL
THINGS COME BIG
INVENTIONS.)



**HEIWA NA
SHIMAJIMA,
HI NO MIHATA.**
(PEACEFUL ISLANDS
UNDER THE FLAG
OF THE RISING
SUN.)



**TOU-A
WO MUSUBU
A-I-U-E-O.**
(THE ALPHABET
THAT BRINGS EAST
ASIA TOGETHER.)



**RUSU WO
MAMOTTE
KACHINUKOU.**
(BE PATIENT.
WATCH THE HOUSE
WHILE OTHERS
ARE GONE.)

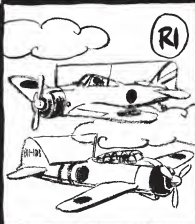


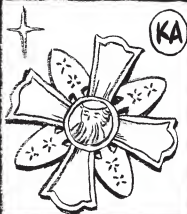
**RIKUWASHI,
UMIWASHI, BOKURA
MO TSUZUKU.**
(LAND EAGLE, SEA
EAGLE. WE FOLLOW
THEIR LEAD.)

"Land eagle" and "sea eagle" were
nicknames for the Japanese army
and navy air forces, respectively.



**NUGUU
ASEMIZU,
KINROU HOUshi.**
(WIPE AWAY THE
SWEAT. VOLUNTEER
LABOR SERVICE.)





**WARAJI
DE KITAETA
OJISAN.**
(GRANDFATHER
GREW STRONG
WALKING IN STRAW
SANDALS.)



**KAGAYAKU,
MUNE NO
SHOU KISHOU.**
(BADGE OF A
WOUNDED WARRIOR,
GLITTERING
ON THE CHEST.)



**WONO NO
HIBIKI MO
SAMASHIKU.**
(THE BRAVE
SOUND OF
AN AXE.)



**TADASHII
KEIREI,
TADASHII
KOKORO.**
(PROPER RESPECT,
PROPER HEART.)



**RENSEI
DE NOBIRU
SHOKOKUMIN.**
(TRAINING
HELPS CHILDREN
GROW.)



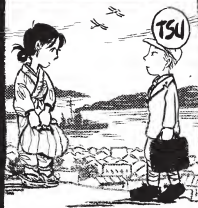
**YOSEKURU
KUROSHIO, UMI
NO KO WARERA.**
(THE JAPAN CURRENT
COMES SURGING.
WE ARE CHILDREN
OF THE SEA.)



**TSUGI NO
NIPPON,
BOKURA GA
NINAU.**
(WE WILL SHOULD
THE NEXT GENERATION
OF JAPAN.)



**NEESAN
GA NUU
RAKKASAN.**
(ELDER SISTER
SEWS A
PARACHUTE.)



**SORA NO
AOSA HA
KAMIYO KARA.**
(THE SKY HAS BEEN
BLUE SINCE THE AGE
OF THE GODS.)



**RAPPA DE
SHINGUN,
HEITAI GOKKO.**
(TRUMPET SOUNDS
THE MARCH. PLAYING
SOLDIER.)



**MURA MO
ZOUSAN, MACHI
MO ZOUSAN.**
(GREATER PRODUCING
VILLAGES. GREATER
PRODUCING TOWNS.)



**NAKAYOSHI
KODOMO NO
TONARIGUMI.**
(A NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
OF FRIENDLY
CHILDREN.)

**NO-KOE,
YAMA-KOE, KYO-
UKOUGUN.**
(ACROSS THE FIELD
AND OVER THE
MOUNTAIN, THE ARMY
MARCHES ON.)



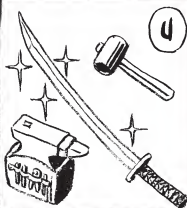
**UTTE KITAERU
NIPPON-TOU.**
(HAND FORGING
JAPANESE
SWORDS.)



**WIMON-BUKURO
NI TEGAMI
WO IRERU.**

(PUT A LETTER INSIDE
A COMFORT BAG.)

Comfort bags were bags filled with
gifts and items for soldiers off at war.
They are Japan's equivalent to care
packages.



**YAMA NO OKU NI
MO KOINOBORI.**
(KOINOBORI FLY EVEN
IN THE HEART OF
THE MOUNTAINS.)

Koinobori, or "carp streamers," are
carp-shaped wind-socks. They are
flown to celebrate Children's Day
on May 5th. The carp is seen as a
symbol of strength, determination
and bravery.



**ONI WO MO
HISHIGU
MOMOTARO.**
(MOMOTARO
DEFEATS
EVEN OGRES.)

Momotaro is the hero of a popular
Japanese folktale.



**KUWA NO HIKARI
HA MIKUNI NO
HIKARI.**

(THE LIGHT OF THE
HOE IS THE LIGHT
OF THE NATION.)



**FUJI WO AOIDE,
KOKUMIN TAISOU.**

(GAZING UP AT
MT. FUJI, DOING
PATRIOTIC
EXERCISES.)



**MATSU NO
IRO MASU,
OOUCHIYAMA.**

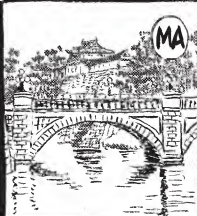
(THE COLOR OF PINES
DECORATING THE
PALACE.)

"Oouchiyama" is a nickname for the Imperial Palace. It means "great inner mountain."



**KESA MO
HAYA-OKI,
REISUI MASATSU.**

(WAKE UP EARLY
AGAIN TODAY. WASH
YOUR FACE WITH
COLD WATER.)



**TETSU, SEKKAI,
ARUMI, HIKKOUKI,
FUNE, HIRYOU.**

(STEEL. LIME.
ALUMINUM.
AIRPLANES. SHIPS.
FERTILIZER.)



**KOTOKU HA
TADASHIKU,
HAKKIRI TO.**

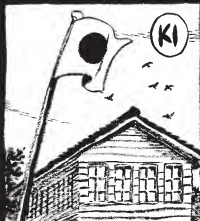
(SPEAK CORRECTLY
AND CLEARLY.)



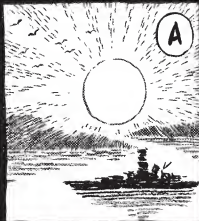
**EIREI
SHIZUMARU,
YASUKUNI JINJA.**

(YASUKUNI SHRINE,
WHERE THE SOULS
OF THE WAR
DEAD SLEEP.)





**SAKURA
TO CHITTA
SHOUNANKOU.**
(LITTLE LORD
KUSUNOKI, LIFE
SCATTERED LIKE
FALLEN CHERRY
BLOSSOMS.)



**KIMIGAYO,
UTAU, ASA NO
GAKKOU.**
(SINGING KIMIGAYO
AT SCHOOL IN THE
MORNING.)

Kimigayo, or "His Imperial Majesty's
Reign" is Japan's national anthem.



**ASAHI NI
KASHI HA TE.**
(HOLD YOUR
HAND UP BEFORE
THE RISING SUN.)



**ME GA DETA,
HA GA DETA,
BOKURA NO
HATAKE.**
(SEEDS HAVE SPROUTED.
SPROUTS GREW LEAVES.
OUR GARDEN.)



**MIZU DA. BAKETSU
DA. HITATAKI DA.**
(WATER. BUCKET.
BAMBOO POLE
AND ROPE.)

A hitataki, which is a bamboo pole
with a clump of rope at the end,
is an olden style fire extinguisher.



**YUKI MO,
KAERI MO,
RETSU KUNDE.**
(FORM A LINE,
BOTH LEAVING
AND COMING.)



**WEIGAO TO
WEIGAO DE
AKARUI
SHOKUBA.**
(SMILES MAKE
THE WORKPLACE
BRIGHTER.)



**HINADAN NI
HITOEDA, MOMO
NO HANA.**
(A SPRIG FOR THE
TIRED DOLL STAND.
PEACH BLOSSOMS.)



**SHUSSEI
KAZOKU E
OTETSUPAI.**
(HELPING THE
FAMILIES OF
SOLDIERS OFF
TO WAR.)



**SENSEI NI
HOMERARETA
CHOKKIN-BAKO.**
(TEACHER PRAISED
MY PIGGY-BANK.)

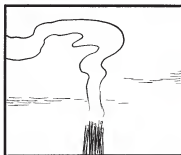
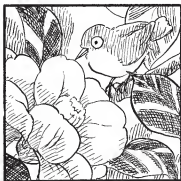
In those days, the government
strongly encouraged citizens to put
their money into savings accounts.
This was so that the government,
which ran the banks, could then use
that money for military expenditures.



**SUGURETA
KUNIGARA,
SEKAI GA AOGU.**
(THE WORLD LOOKS
UP TO A NATION
OF CHARACTER.)



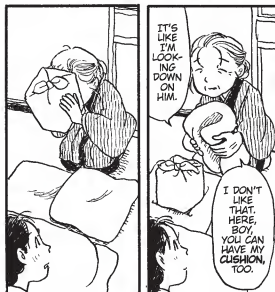
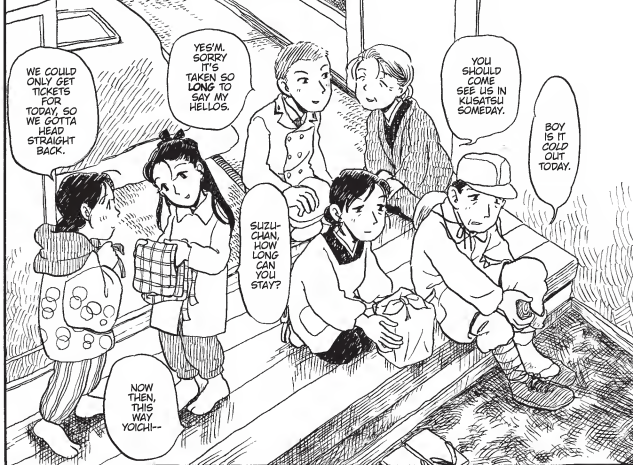
**MONPE DE
HATARAKU
OKAASAN.**
(MOTHER,
WORKING WHILE
WEARING
TROUSERS.)

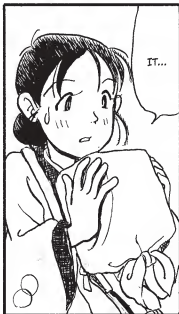
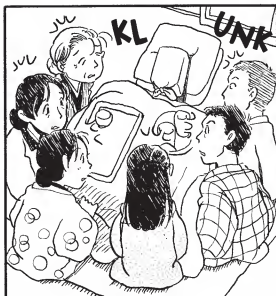


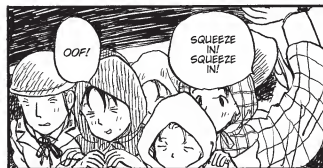
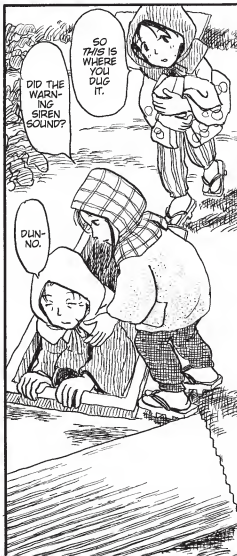
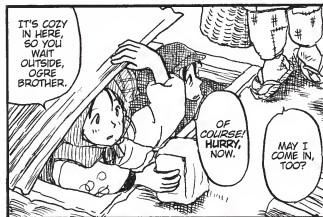
CHAPTER 24

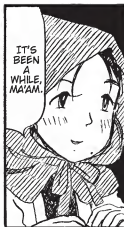
(February, 1945)

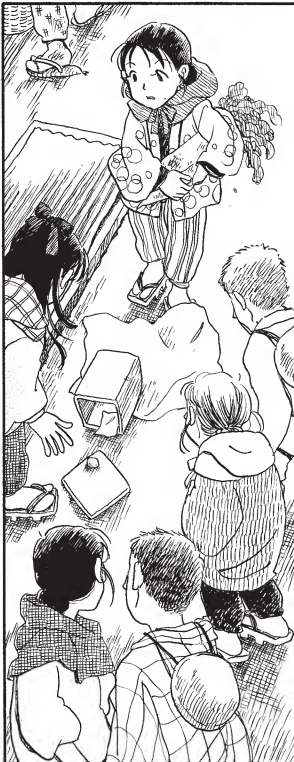
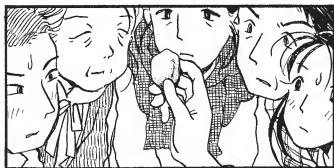
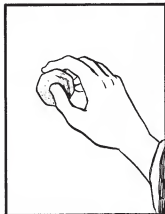


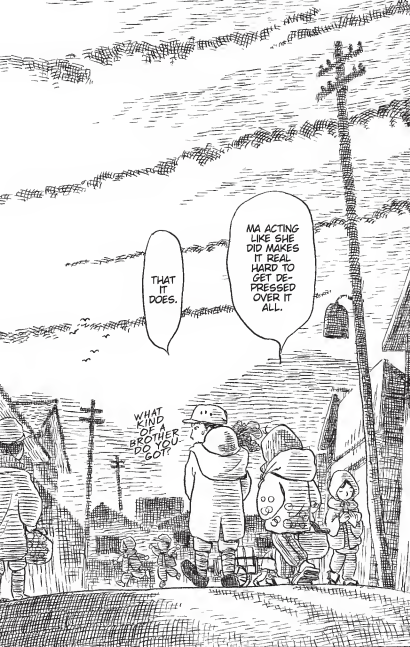












THAT
IT DOES.

MA ACTING
LIKE SHE
DID MAKES
IT REAL
HARD TO
GET DEPRESSED
OVER IT
ALL.

WHAT
KIND
OF A
BROTHER
DO YOU
GOT?

I
SHOULD'VE
GUESSED.
IT ISN'T
AS IF A
WAR OR
TWO IS
ENOUGH
TO KILL
YOICHI,
ANYWAY.

HEAVENS!
THEY
CALLED
US OUT
IN THIS
COLD
FOR A
ROCK?



HMPH!
A ROCK
OF ALL
THINGS.
WHEN HE
COMES
HOME, IT
WON'T
EVEN BE
WORTH
TELLING
AS A
FUNNY
STORY.

GOOD
POINT.

I DON'T THINK
MY BROTHER'S DEAD,
BUT THERE'S NO
GUARANTEE I'LL
EVER SEE HIM AGAIN.



CAN I
REALLY
SAY I'M
LIVING MY
LIFE
WITH NO
REGRETS?

WITH
BOMBINGS
GOING ON
ALL OVER,
THE SAME
COULD
BE SAID
OF YOU
OR EVEN
ANYONE, I
GUESS.

THE
SAME
GOES
FOR
MIZU-
HARA-
SAN.



I CAN'T GET PREGNANT, AFTER ALL. ARE YOU SURE THIS IS THE WAY YOU WANT IT TO BE?



BUT, ERM...

IS THIS REALLY WHAT IT MEANS TO BE MARRIED?



THANKS TO THAT, I WAS ABLE TO TELL MIZU-HARA-SAN ABOUT HER SON, TETSU-SAN.

HN? OH. SURE.

THANK YOU FOR THE OTHER DAY, SHU-SAKU-SAN.



YOU'RE REALLY JUST LOOKING FOR EXCUSES 'CAUZ YOU WANTED TO MARRY HIM.

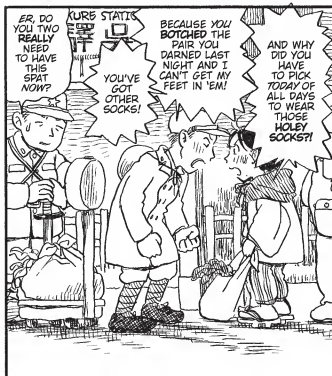
HUH?!



YOU KNOW THAT DON'T MEAN A THING TO ME.



.....



ER, DO YOU TWO REALLY NEED TO HAVE THIS SPAT NOW?

KURE'S STATIC

YOU'VE GOT OTHER SOCKS!

BECAUSE YOU BOTCHED THE PAIR YOU DARNED LAST NIGHT AND I CAN'T GET MY FEET IN 'EM!

AND WHY DID YOU HAVE TO PICK TODAY OF ALL DAYS TO WEAR THOSE HOLEY SOCKS?!



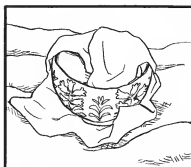
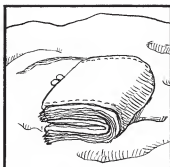
OH. YOU'VE BEEN UPSET, EH? I DIDN'T NOTICE.

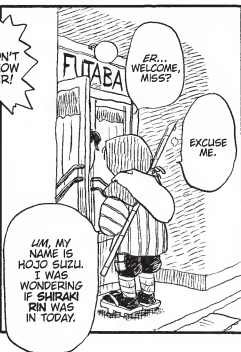
IT DOES NOT MEAN NOTHING! THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN UPSET!

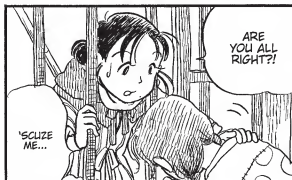
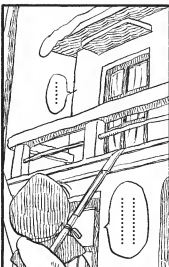
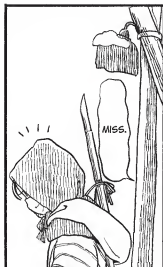


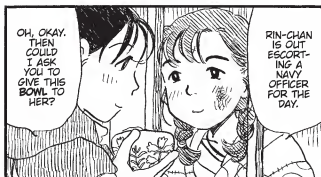
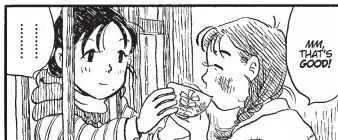
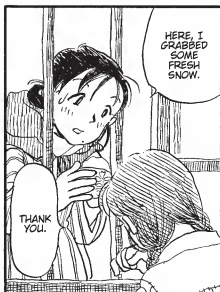
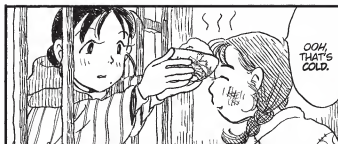
LOOK OUT! THERE'S FOLK GETTING OFF THE TRAIN! NOW WHO ISN'T PAYING ATTENTION?

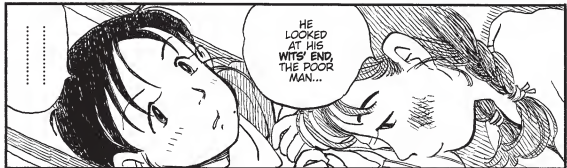
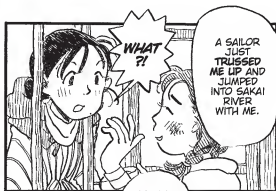
THEN YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION! AND DON'T TELL ME IT MEANS NOTHING TO YOU!

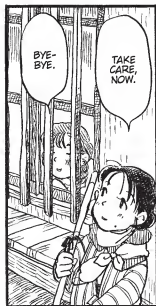
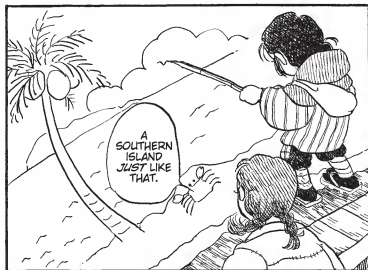


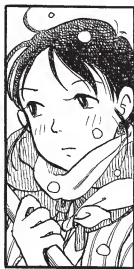
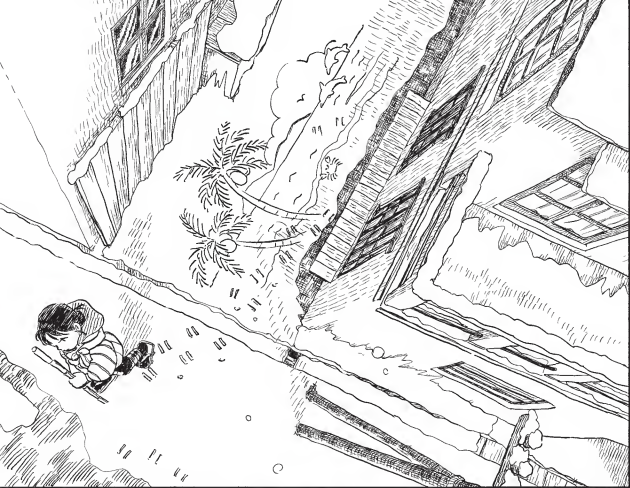








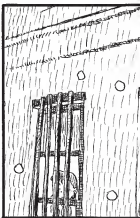
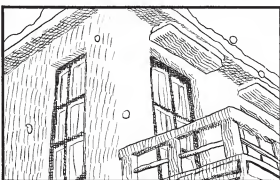




"YOU'VE
BECOME
A REAL
DOLL,
Y'KNOW!"



"SUZU..."





SHU-
SAKU-
SAN.

I DON'T
THINK
THERE'S
EVEN ONE
THING I
HAVE
THAT CAN
MATCH UP
TO RIN-
SAN.



IT'S A GOOD
THING SHE
DIDN'T CATCH
COLD LIKE
THE REST
OF US.

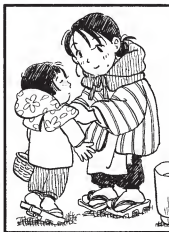
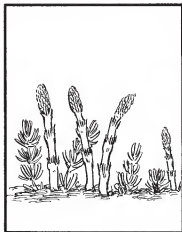
THIS IS THE
ONE DAY
I'LL SAY
I'M GLAD TO
SEE YOU,
SUZU-SAN.

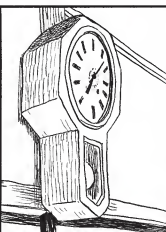
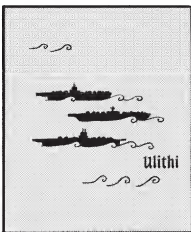
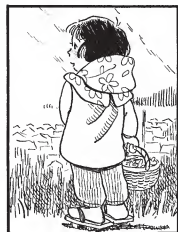
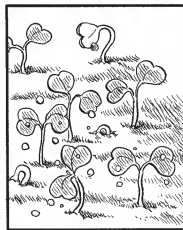
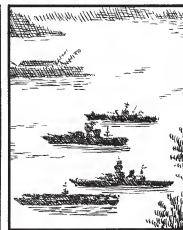
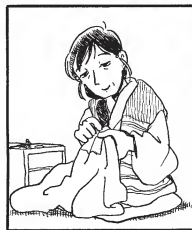
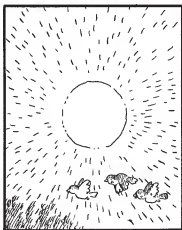
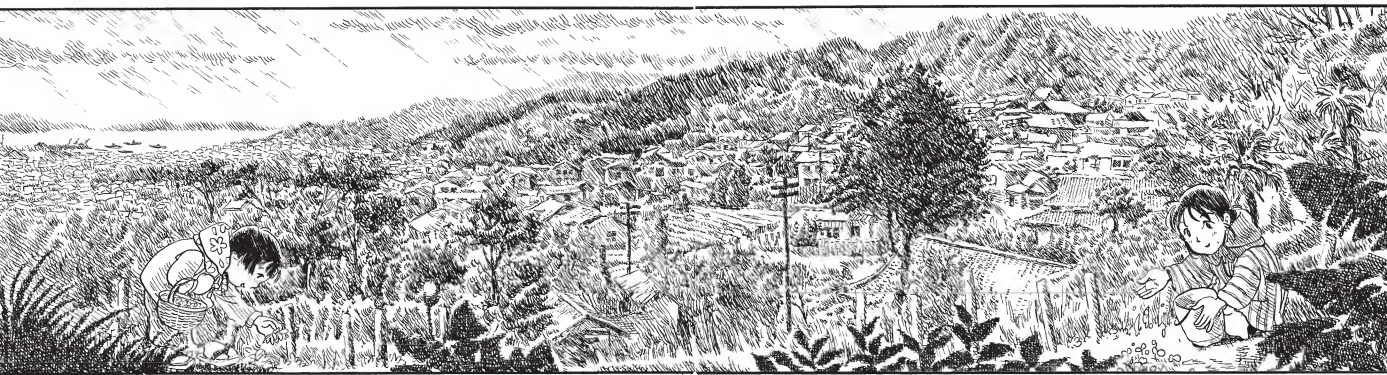
KEFF!
KEFF!
KEFF!

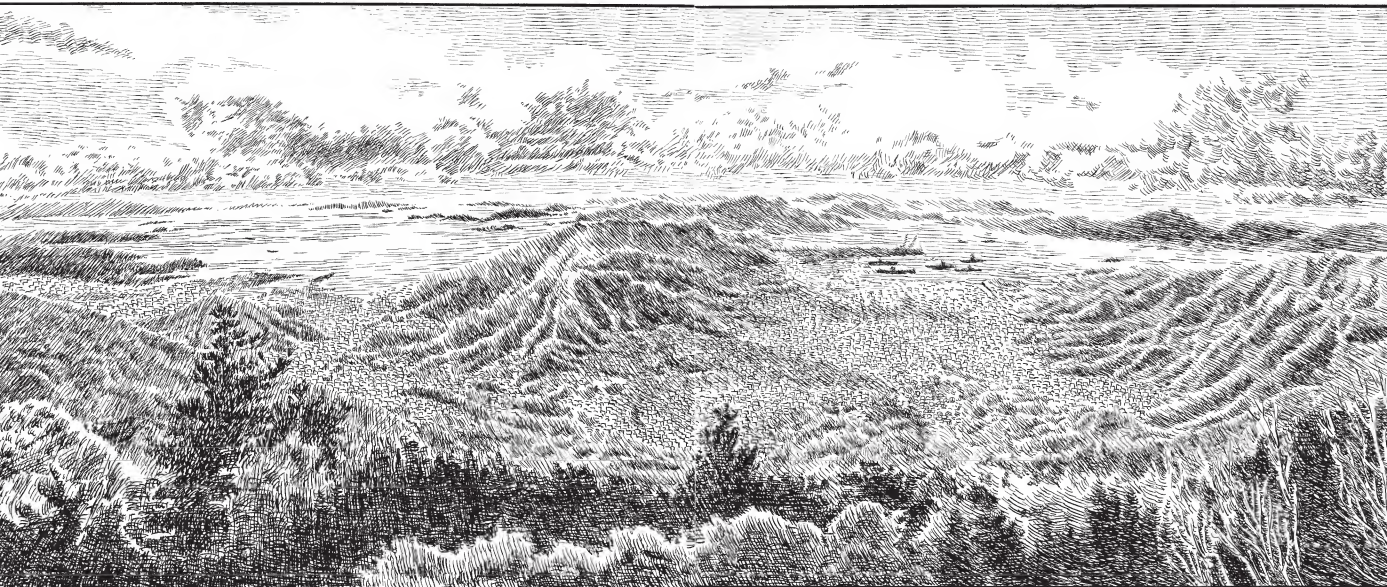
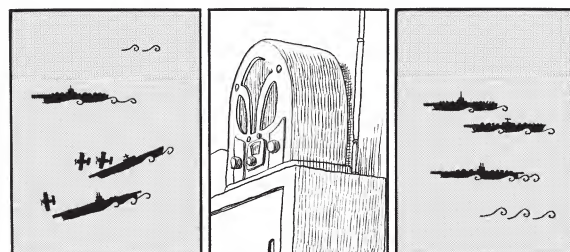
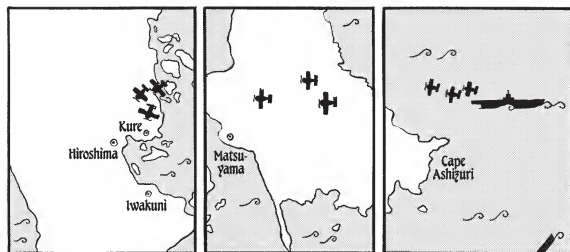
GET 'EM
AT THE
BLACK MAR-
KET?

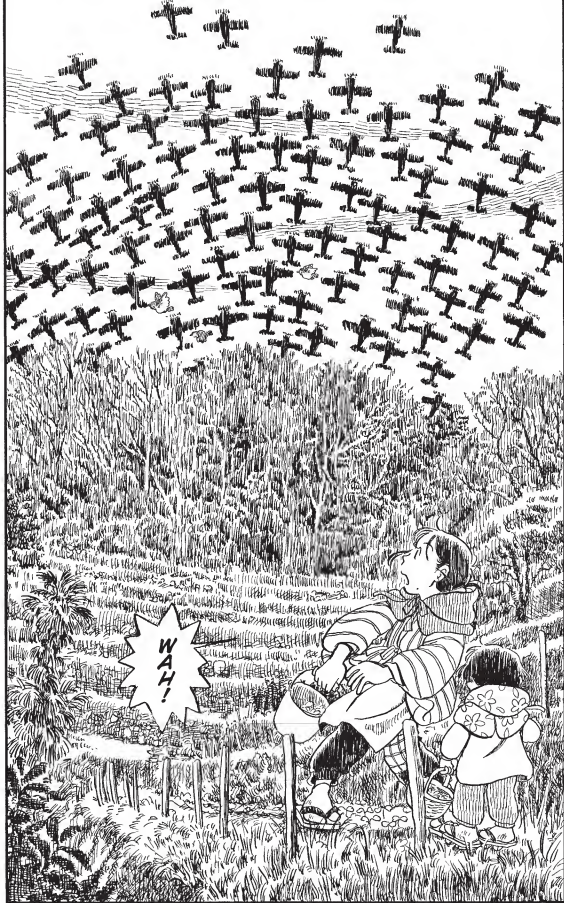
OOH, POM-
ELOS...

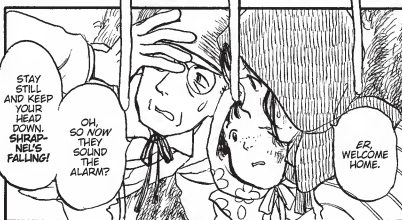
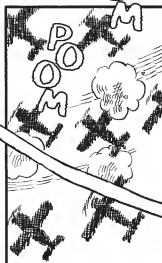
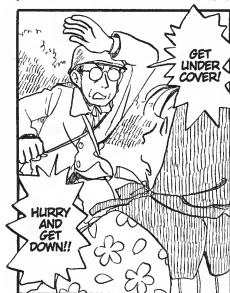
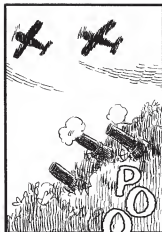
OH, BUT
THIS
I'VE GOT
CONFIDENCE
IN.



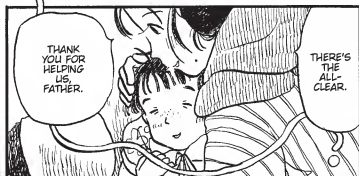
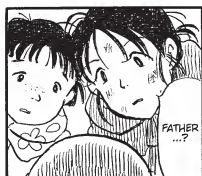
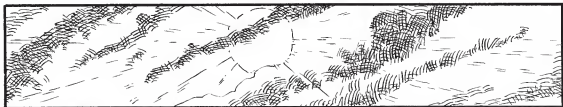


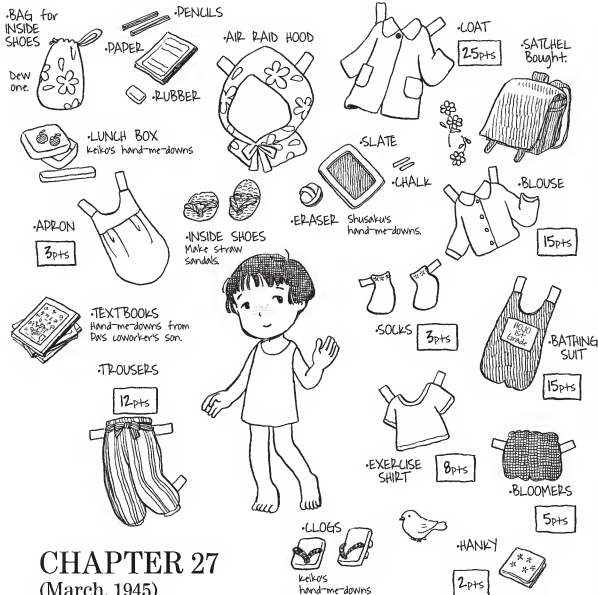






From 7:20 AM to 11:05 AM on March 19th, 1945, the Allied Forces conducted their first air strike on Kure. Approximately 350 aircraft—mostly American carrier-based F4F Grumman Hellcats—attacked in waves throughout the morning. They targeted naval installations and ships moored in the harbor. The Japanese Navy recorded 82 personnel killed in the attack. There were another 347 civilian casualties (28 killed) along the approach path of the attack.

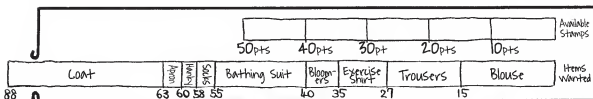




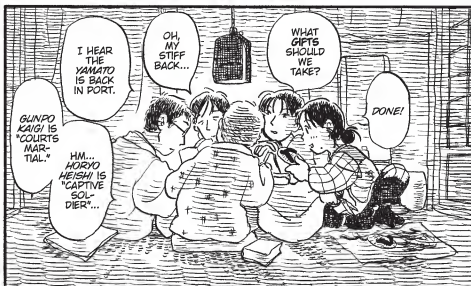
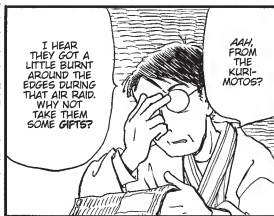
Clothing stamps were officially distributed coupons to use for purchasing clothes. First enacted in 1942, the number of stamps allotted to each individual decreased with each passing year. By 1944, adults over the age of 30 were allotted 40 points of stamps per year. Those under the age of 30 were allotted 50 points. However, by that point the shortages were so bad that stores didn't have the items in stock, even if one had the points to buy them.

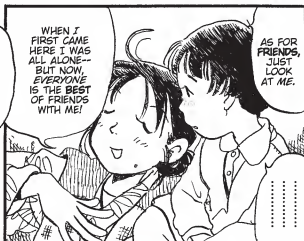
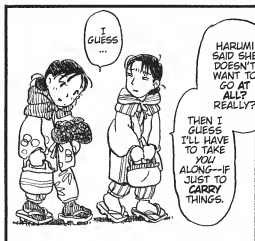
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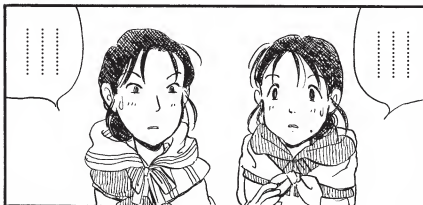
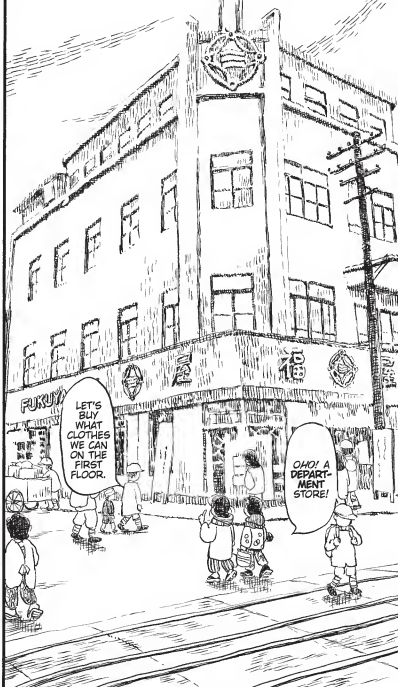
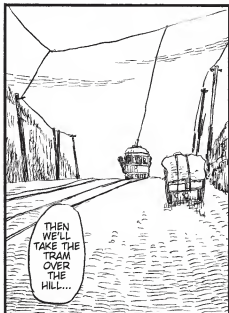
(March, 1945)

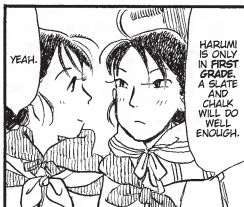
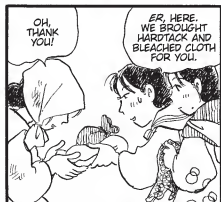


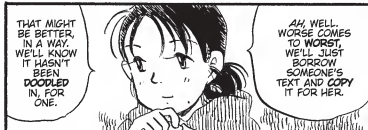
In those days, there was only one series of school textbooks officially recognized by the government. The individual books were re-used year after year, so almost all children used hand-me-downs from other children. The books were considered practically sacred, so of course doodling in them was strictly forbidden. It wasn't unheard of for teachers to scold a student for doodling when it was really the doing of the book's previous owner.

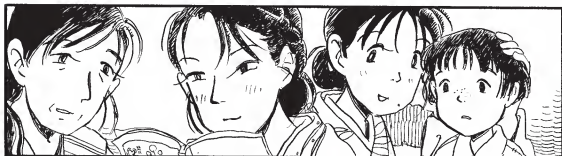
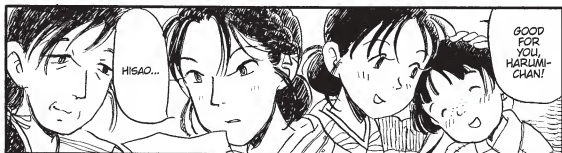
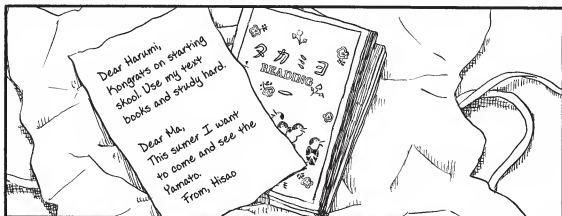
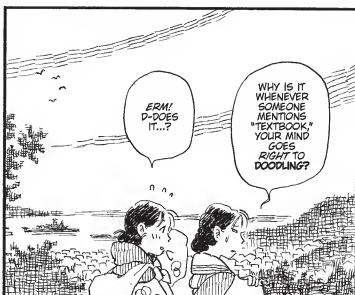




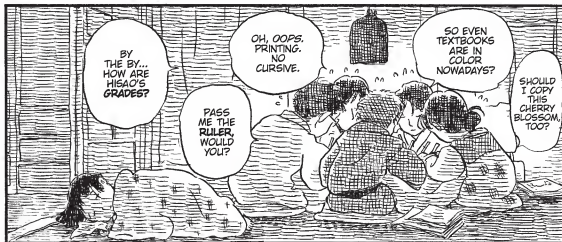








↑ This is a children's parody of the propaganda song *Fly into March* (1938). The parody reached its greatest popularity around 1943-44, though in the proper lyrics the word "teacher" is replaced with "Jigo." The original lyrics to those verses are: Lo, above the eastern sea, clearly dawns the sky. Glorious and bright the sun redden up on high. Spirit pure of heaven and earth fills the hearts of all.

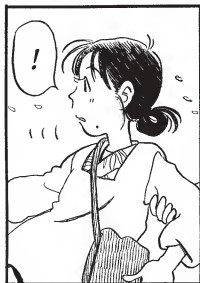


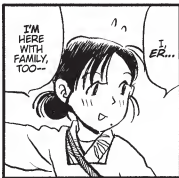
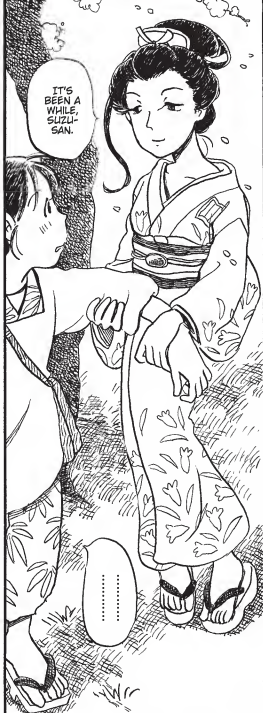
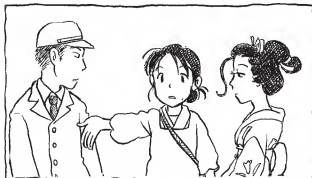
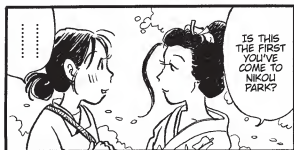
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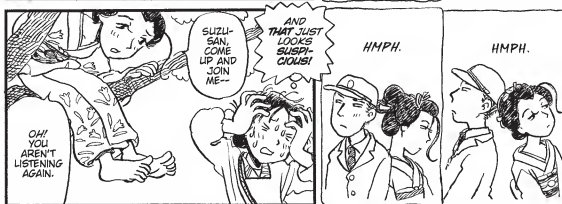
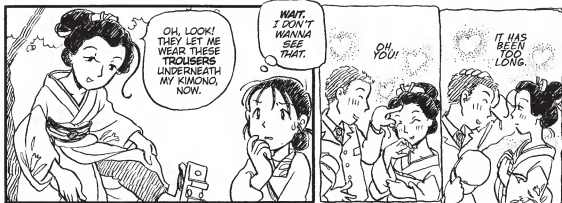
(April, 1945)

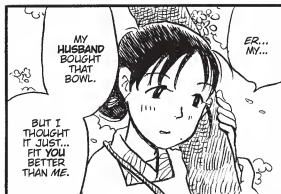


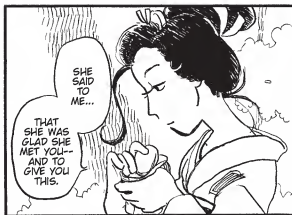
On April 3rd in the Hiroshima region, what started as a holiday to venerate Japan's mythological founder, Emperor Jimmu, grew into a custom of going cherry blossom viewing that day. The custom was particularly beloved in Kure and persisted for some time after the war.

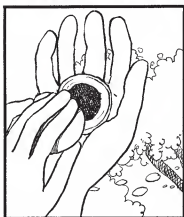


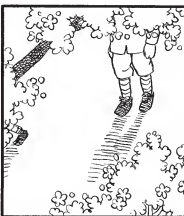
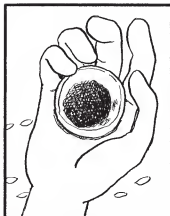


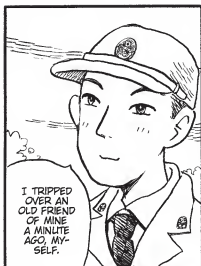




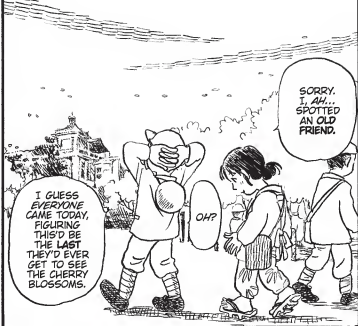








I TRIPPED
OVER AN
OLD FRIEND
OF MINE
A MINUTE
AGO, MY-
SELF.



I GUESS
EVERYONE
CAME TODAY,
FIGURING
THIS'D BE
THE LAST
THEY'D EVER
GET TO SEE
THE CHERRY
BLOSSOMS.

OH?

SORRY.
I, AH...
SPOTTED
AN OLD
FRIEND.



SHE WAS
SMILING,
TOO.
MADE
ME GLAD
TO SEE
THAT.



ME,
TOO.

WHAT
...?

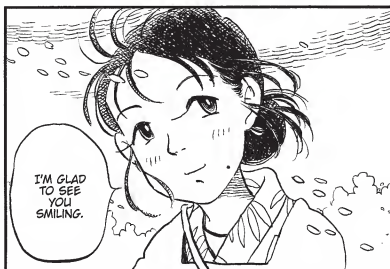


GOOD
THING
SHE
WASN'T
CARRY-
ING OUR
LUNCH.

SHE GOT LOST
CHASING AFTER
A FRIEND AND
CLIMBED UP A
TREE TO SEE IF
SHE COULD SPOT
'EM. THEN SHE
COULDN'T GET BACK
DOWN AND WAS
AFRAID SHE'D GET
SCOLDED, SO SHE
STAYED PUT 'TIL
I FOUND HER.

FOUND
HER!

THAT
AIN'T
QUITE
IT, BUT
OH
WELL..



I'M GLAD
TO SEE
YOU
SMILING.

In this
Corner
of the World

[Volume 2 - END]

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

In this Corner of the World

story and art by FUMIYO KOUNO

VOL. 2

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KONO SEKAI NO KATASUMI NI

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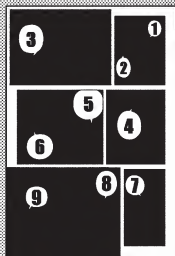
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from **right to left**, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!





The Manga that Inspired the Critically Acclaimed Film!

1940's Hiroshima Prefecture. Suzu, a young woman from the countryside, joins her new husband and his family in the shipbuilding city of Kure. As her beautiful home collapses around her, Suzu must confront the challenges of a new life while coming to grips with a world in turmoil. Unwilling to give up hope, Suzu struggles against the horrors of war to create her own happiness.

[Volume 2 of 3]